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Motorola Positions Itself at Number One in China

By Zhao Hongyi

Motorola Tianjin has replaced Shanghai Volkswagen as the number one company by sales volume in China, according to the top 500 domestic foreign-funded companies listed by *International Business* under the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) on Tuesday.

Shanghai Volkswagen has occupied first place nine years running since the list was first released in 1992. But this year, Shanghai Volkswagen came second with a sales volume of 28.698 billion yuan after Motorola (Tianjin) Electronics with 31.289 billion yuan.

The top 10 are Motorola (Tianjin) Electronics, Shanghai-Volkswagen Group, Guangdong Mobile Communications, China National Oceanic Oil Corp. (CNOOC), Shanghai-Volkswagen Sales, FAW-Volkswagen Group, West Pacific Petrochemical (Dalian), Ericsson Telecommunications Nanjing, Zhejiang Mobile Telecommunications and Konka Group.

Guests Bring Survey of American Prejudices

By Zhu Lin

Chinese Americans on an official visit to Beijing brought with them a landmark national study about American attitudes towards Chinese Americans and Asian Americans.

Representatives of the Committee of 100, composed of celebrated American citizens of Chinese descent, revealed the survey had found one out of every four Americans held "strong negative attitudes" towards Chinese Americans.

About 23% would be uncomfortable voting for an Asian American to be president of the United States, 24% would disapprove of marrying an Asian American, the Marttila Communications Group and Yankelevich survey found.

Some of the positive attitudes towards Chinese Americans voiced by survey respondents included "strong family values" (91%), "honesty as business people" (77%), and "place a high value on education" (67%).

"A lot of people misunderstand China and the Chinese people," said Henry S. Tang, committee chairman. The survey was released early this year. It has just been translated into Chinese.

"As soon as we go home, we'll mobilize more Americans, especially American leaders to visit China," said Tang. Members include Lily Lee Chen, the first female Chinese American mayor, of Monterey Park City, California in America and David Ho, a scientist researching AIDS.



Photo provided by Beijing Music Festival

Stricken Chairman Returns to Japan

Norio Ohga, who collapsed on stage conducting the Fourth Beijing Music Festival 31 days ago, went home on Tuesday.

Ohga had been staying at the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital in north Beijing for treatment after suffering a brain hemorrhage caused by the rupture of a tumor.

Local doctors successfully operated to remove problems which might cause future cerebral hemorrhages and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra chairman is now said to be in a stable condition. (Xinhua)

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Final Warning

World Heritage site under threat



This 20-million yuan hotel in Wulingyuan is gone today

Photo by Chen Feng

By Xiao Rong

A glass elevator is being built through a scenic Hunan mountain without consulting the World Heritage Committee.

The 126 million yuan, 326-meter sightseeing elevator will be built at Zhangjiajie National Forest Park in Wulingyuan, a World Heritage site since 1992. *Beijing Today* has discovered that the plan will be completed by next January without consulting the World Heritage Committee.

The Committee first issued a warning about commercial overdevelopment in 1997. A September 1998 UN inspection found Wulingyuan "over-run with tourist facilities".

In response, local authorities this year demolished 124 buildings — mostly guesthouses — and further demolitions are scheduled for spring festival.

Chief engineer Zhuo Zhiyuan explained the blueprint for Wulingyuan calls for blasting and drilling through a cliff creating a 150-meter tunnel through the mountain.

"Although the elevator can tolerate a 3,500-kilogram load," said Zhuo, "it will take only two and a half minutes to finish the entire trip, rising at a speed of 3 meters a second."

The project's chief designer Su Xingwen emphasized the Bailong Elevator Company was working hard to minimize the environmental impact.

"The elevator will more or less spoil the outward appearance of the natural landscape," said Su. "The steel structures can also exert a certain unfavorable influence on the mountain. The construction process may also prove to be another source of pollution to the local environment by producing construction waste."

But Su said the main derrick would be steel, avoiding large reflection of light. "Construction of the elevator will greatly facilitate local transportation by connecting the three scenic spots of

Tianzishan, Yangjiajie and Zhangjiajie National Forest Park," he said.

UNESCO awaits information

But an official from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) told *Beijing Today* they had not been informed of the project. "I have heard such news," said Edmond Moukala, Programme Officer for Culture of UNESCO's China Representative Office.

"But no official information about the elevator has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee up till now. It's surely bad news."

If Zhangjiajie didn't remedy this situation, UNESCO would have no choice but "a red card," said Moukala. "We don't want Zhangjiajie to be on the unwanted list or to be excluded from the World Natural Heritage List. I think neither does Zhangjiajie local government themselves."

Personally he didn't agree with the UNESCO warnings, said Peng Lin, director of the Administration Office of Wulingyuan Scenic Spot of Zhangjiajie Construction Bureau.

"China is a developing country," said Peng, "and the transportation in Zhangjiajie mountain area is not so convenient. So it's necessary to build such an elevator to facilitate local communi-

cations as well as tourists. Anyway, we invited experts to discuss the plan so as to minimize the unfavorable effects."

Construction began in 1999 after two rounds of professional demonstrations, Su said.

Regardless of effects, anything new is forbidden on a World Heritage nature site, said Moukala.

"We want to keep a natural site natural," he said. "We cannot modify a priceless, irreversible natural site for the sake of visitors or tourism."

Moukala urged Zhangjiajie local government to submit a clearance concerning the project to the World Heritage Committee.

"It's a simple problem," he said. "We believe the Chinese government has the ability to solve it by themselves. On the other hand, we strongly oppose mismanagement by Zhangjiajie local authorities. They had been warned to remove all the pavilions as early as 1997, but the removal has long been delayed."

After the 1998 floods delayed removal, UNESCO donated \$6,000 to Zhangjiajie for restoration.

Delays explained

Peng said there were historical reasons for delaying the destruction of excess buildings in Zhangjiajie. "First, there were local residents living on

the mountain long before the establishment of Zhangjiajie scenic spots," he said.

"Second, Zhangjiajie has been built only as a town where there are no local regulations concerning the preservation of national scenic spots until 1994. Third, when Zhangjiajie entered the World Heritage List in 1992, few tourists came here so the local government had to build more travel facilities to attract more investment."

Such travel facilities may lead to a decrease in earnings for scenic spots. Most likely only an elevator company's profits will increase, said Professor Wang Xingbin of the Tourism Research Institute, China Tourism Institute.

"If more and more tourists choose to travel by cable cars or elevators, then consequently fewer travelers will linger at the scene," he said.

"So profits for the relevant service industries will gradually decline. In the long term, this is unfavorable for the healthy development of China's cultural heritage protection."

Tourism principles are different in foreign countries, he said.

"Cable cars are mostly seen not in scenic areas, but in professional skiing resorts in foreign countries. Foreigners tend to enjoy natural beauty by climbing or walking themselves, while Chinese like to travel by vehicle."

The World Heritage Convention requires protecting the integrity and primitiveness of a natural landscape, said Wang. "From this core view, any man-made structures like elevators or cable cars will damage the original state of the natural sites."

The impact of a single elevator upon Zhangjiajie's natural heritage might seem minor, but Moukala said that misses the point. "Tourism should support, not guide a World Heritage site. The natural site is first preserved and then developed."



Officials study a blueprint for new housing in Wulingyuan

Photos by Yin Jusheng

Amended Medicine Law Emphasizes Safety

By Xiao Rong

Punishments for the production, selling or mixing of counterfeit and shoddy medicines will be strengthened in the revised Pharmaceutical Administration Law of China, which has just been issued by the State Drug Administration on December 1.

Those who produce and sell counterfeit medicine will be fined two to five times the selling price of the products, while the fake medicine and illegal profits will be confiscated, according to the amended law.

The new law also stipulated that enterprises producing fake

medicines would have their production certificates revoked. Furthermore, the individuals concerned will be banned from producing and managing medicines for ten years.

Anyone who has offered privileges for producing and selling fake and inferior medicines will also be fined.

If the above illegal behavior has infringed upon the nation's criminal law, sentences of two to seven years' imprisonment, and even the death penalty, can be applied, as further regulated by the revised law.

Medical organizations are also required by the new law to offer

a detailed list of the prescribed medicines to patients, and will be imposed a maximum fine of 200,000 yuan for receiving and offering sales commissions secretly.

There are altogether 106 items in the revised law, 60 items more than the original one, of which 98% have been amended.

China Considers Establishing Special Trade Area

By Shan Jinliang

China is considering building a special trade area comprising the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, said Long Yongtu, China's chief negotiator for WTO-related talks and vice-minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation on the 14th General Meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) in Hong Kong on November 28.

The establishment of such an area, proposed by Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, is totally in line with the WTO regulations and is in the interests of the trade among the three areas. The trade area will strengthen trading ties between the three areas, Long said.

Experts say the establishment of the area will give impetus to Hong Kong's economy, which is experiencing pain caused by restructuring and the global economic slowdown.

Mike Moore, director-general of the WTO, shared the view that such an area is in line with WTO rules. He also cited the examples of the European Union and the North America Free Trade Zone at the economic conference.

250,000 Residents Move Out of Downtown

By Shan Jinliang

"Working in downtown, living in the outskirts" is to become the life pattern for most Beijing residents as 250,000 people will move out of the old downtown area. Almost 80% of the Beijing residents will live in the immediate suburbs, according to the plan by the Beijing Municipal Planning Commission.

The downtown population will be kept under 6.5 million by 2010 while the older parts of the city area will experience a drop in population from the current 1.75 million to 1.5 million.

To reach the goal, the city government is intensifying its efforts in constructing satellite towns, subways and city railways connecting the suburban areas to attract the downtown residents to move out.

BULATS Begins to Boom in China

By Shan Jinliang

The Business Language Testing Service (BULATS), an innovative testing system tailored for large international organizations, has gained more popularity in China since it was introduced early last year, revealed its promoter the British Embassy in China on Wednesday at Kunlun Hotel.

Designed by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) and other members of the Association of Language Testers in Europe, BULATS consists of four parts: the standard test, the computer test, the BULATS speaking test and the BULATS writing test. To date, the test has been used by Ericsson China Academy, Shell Exploration, Nokia, P&G, British Petroleum, Philips Lighting and Alcatel, said Sherry Zhang, Exams Marketing Manager of the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy in China.

"Generally speaking, it is a good test for our company," said Micheal Zhang from the Training Department of Ericsson China Academy. Chinese employees claim the computer test did not make them feel nervous, as regular tests do.



The AIDS vaccine under cultivation

Photo by Qu Liyan

Clinical Testing Approval Sought for AIDS Vaccine

By Xiao Rong

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine are planning to apply for approval from the State Drug Administration for clinical tests of a new type of AIDS vaccine later next year.

The vaccine, which is expected to enter into the clinical stage, is a major part of the "New Type AIDS Vaccine Research Program" initiated in 1996 in China.

If approved, clinical tests will be launched in the second half of next year. The first phase will take between one year and 18 months to verify the vaccine's safety, said the

program leader Professor Shao Yiming.

In the second and third clinical phases, a comparison study of those inoculated or non-inoculated volunteer groups will be made to observe the vaccine's protective effect.

Clinical tests are likely to have a very low rate of success, according to Shao, and the entire clinical period may have to take at least 5 to 8 years.

There are over 20 kinds of AIDS vaccine in the world that have entered into the clinical stage, but none of them have gained success up till now, Shao added. The huge market potential and the vast

social significance have led to the intense competition in the field of AIDS vaccine research.

Professor Shao is nevertheless confident about China's AIDS vaccine research, "China has learnt a lot from other countries so we can start from a strong position, even though we began relatively late."

Shao also confirmed to the reporter that the vaccine would not be too expensive if it were successful, since just a few inoculations are necessary, whereas some of the anti-AIDS drugs need to be taken for life.

Cheaper Anti-AIDS Drugs Available

By Xiao Rong

China's HIV/AIDS sufferers will greatly benefit from two kinds of much cheaper anti-AIDS drugs, namely Crixivan and Stocrin, which have been cut in price by one third from December 3.

The two protease inhibitor drugs act as the indispensable part of the currently most effective anti-AIDS 'Cocktail Therapy'. The new package will now cost each user only 30,000 yuan per year, with the addition of import tariffs, value-added tax and other costs, according to the producing company, Merck

Sharp&Dohme (China) Ltd, a Shanghai-based pharmaceutical company under Merck&Co.

Besides Merck&Co., Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., GlaxoSmith-Kline, Boehringer Ingelheim International Trade Co., and Abbott Laboratory, four big companies that focus on anti-AIDS drugs, are also likely to lower the prices of their anti-AIDS medicines in China by a significant margin, revealed the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Center under the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Public Health has been holding talks

with international pharmaceutical giants for the possibility of reducing prices since the beginning of this year.

"We've tried, and had positive response from them," said Shen Jie, director of the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Center.

"For HIV carriers, there are a variety of choices for medicines, especially in the combination of different medicines. So only when more and more pharmaceutical companies cooperate by lowering prices, will more HIV/AIDS sufferers benefit," a civil servant at the Ministry of Health pointed out.

New Delisting System to Take Effect

China's new delisting system for securities will be operational as of January 1 next year, and thereafter the practice of Particular Transfer (PT) and grace period for due delisting will be abolished, according to the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC).

The changes are an attempt by the Chinese securities watchdog to follow international practices with the idea that China's WTO entry will lead to a full-scale market economy -- including a healthy securities market that is expected to conform to the international system.

The stock market has been playing an increasingly important role in the Chinese economy and become a major source of funds for Chinese enterprises. In 2000 alone, China's 1,200-odd listed firms raised 320 billion yuan from the stock market.

However, the lack of an effective market exit mechanism has weakened the market's function in resources distribution. In the worst cases, it has become a cash cow for some listed firms.

More than one economist has blamed the country's non-delisting stock market for the increasing number of loss-making listed firms and a decline in the performance of listed firms as a whole.

Moreover, it gives investors the false impression that listed firms will never be delisted, and has led to rampant speculation in loss-making ST and PT stocks.

The establishment of the Special Treatment and Particular Transfer for stocks of firms operating at

a loss is an effort to remind investors of the risks involved in the trading of such stocks.

But speculation on ST or PT stocks reached such a high pitch that even after the CSRC had embarked on delisting procedures, investors continued to buy ST and PT stocks, pushing their prices to new highs time after time.

China's Securities Law and Company Law both have provisions on the delisting of stocks, but in practice such provisions have never been enforced.

China began last April to delist firms recording consecutive figures in the red.

Analysts noted that the establishment of the delisting system is of great significance in improving the quality of China's listed firms, advocating rational investment and promoting the healthy and sustainable development of China's stock market.

The new delisting system cancels the grace period. Now, a stocktrading-suspended company that fails to make profits in the first six months following the suspension will be delisted with no grace period given. If the company begins to make profits in that period, it can apply for reinstatement with approval from the regulators.

The new delisting policy also eliminates the PT system. If a company is suspended, trading of its stocks will also be suspended immediately and bourses will stop transfer service for that stock.

(Xinhua)

Northern Ireland Confident in China's Potential

By Xiao Rong

A Northern Ireland trade mission consisting of 29 companies, the largest of its kind ever to China, finished its ten-day visit to Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing on December 5.

The delegation covers a wide variety of fields including medical equipment, shipbuilding, pharmacy, construction and printing.

"I am immensely encouraged by the number of companies and the breadth of industries involved in this mission to China at a time when this rapidly developing nation is poised for even faster growth through its membership of the WTO," said Sir Reg Empey, Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister of Northern Ireland.

China is expected to be one of the top two economies in the world in the long term, according to Sir Reg.

The trade mission was organized by Trade International, part of the Industrial Develop-



Sir Reg Empey at the press conference Photo by Chen Shuyi

ment Board for Northern Ireland.

There will be another visit to China for further mutual economic cooperation later next year, revealed mission manager Ms. Linda Forte.

By Jiang Zhong

A cross section of Beijing residents has begun answering intimate questions about their mental health, as of Wednesday.

2,500 individuals will be visited in their homes in this investigation jointly carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Public Health of China, and Beijing Public Health Bureau. The same investigation is being

concurrently held in Shanghai.

In Beijing, 100 professionally trained volunteers will act as interviewers for the investigation, which covers all eight districts of the city. None of the volunteers has a background in psychiatry however. The interview will be conducted on a strictly one-to-one basis, as the

interviewee fills in the answer sheets. Questionnaires used in this investigation were provided by the WHO, although many details have been tailor-made for China. Two versions of questionnaire will be adopted. The comprehensive version features 270 pages and will take up to three hours to complete.

How Mentally Robust are Beijingers?



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Who Will Get Beijing Telecom?

By Yang Xiao

Last week the Ministry of Information Industry finally decided to split China Telecom. It is still uncertain however who will take over China Telecom Beijing branch - Beijing Telecom. According to one Beijing local newspaper on November 30, Beijing Telecom will gain independence.

Beijing Telecom geographically belongs to China Netcom. The paper revealed that on account of the company's operating the majority of its business with joint ventures, if Beijing Telecom joins any split part, a lot of business would be lost.

Beijing Today called the company's PR department this Monday: the spokeswoman Rong Yan did not deny the news, but said, "up till now the company hasn't any plan regarding the split including the rumor of independence."

China Mobile in \$13b Deal

By Xu Ying

China Mobile is discussing a multi-billion dollar deal to buy eight mainland mobile phone networks from its parent.

The mainland's biggest mobile phone operator - with 65.7 million subscribers in October - on Monday said it was talking with parent, China Mobile Communications, about buying networks in central and northern China.

The company, which has Hong Kong-listed H shares, did not say how much the deal was likely to cost, but observers said it could be worth about \$13 billion.

Analysts speculated China Mobile could become the first company to utilize a new fundraising method designed to enable foreign businesses to tap mainland funds - China Depositary Receipts (CDRs).

As an H share, China Mobile is not allowed direct access to mainland markets. CDRs enable foreign companies to sell shares denominated in yuan to Chinese investors.

"The company may explore Chinese domestic equity financing, but no financing plan has been finalized at this stage," China Mobile chairman Wang Xiaochu said.

He indicated the company would consider a mainland bond issue as well as using internal financial resources to cover part of the acquisition cost.

Intel and Viewtran Form Strategic Partnership

By Xu Ying

Intel and Viewtran form a strategic cooperation partnership recently by jointly promoting the e-Business Solutions Provider (eBSP) Program. Viewtran was the only broadband video solutions provider to join the worldwide Web integrator-focused initiative.

The Viewtran team consists of world-class scientists and leading transmission and multimedia experts. Many of them hold multiple patents on multimedia and network communication technologies, maintain leading posts in related fields at prestigious academic organizations such as IEEE and ACM, and act as key developers of related international standards (ISO/ITU).

Viewtran is currently engaged in the optimization of video coding applications based on Intel's Pentium 4 Architecture and the two companies have teamed up to promote the eBSP program.

Jianlibao Waits for Right Price

By Sun Zhen

"It is a foregone conclusion that Jianlibao (JLB) will be purchased by foreign capital," a key member of JLB Group told the reporter on November 30.

Currently, the negotiation of JLB's transfer of equity right is taking place. JLB is waiting for a favorable price to sell, but the identity of the prospective buyer still remains a mystery.

According to media analysis, one out of five corporations with foreign capital, namely France Danone, Singapore First Foodstuffs, Pepsi, Coca-Cola, and Yangxicheng are likely to purchase JLB's equity, and first foodstuffs who have already been negotiating with JLB is most likely to be the purchaser. For now, the largest determining factor is where the largest bid will come from.

Considering the three indexes of net assets, brand assets and liability rate, some experts predicted that the highest price would at most reach 400 million yuan, which the Guangdong Sanshui municipal government would earn. An official of the municipal government suggested that not until the middle of December would the government put its cards on the table.

Thus the most famous drink brand in China will lower the



A man takes a box of Jianlibao at one of Beijing's biggest wholesale markets, Taiyanggong. The wholesalers here got wind of rumors that JLB has already shaken hands with Singapore First Foodstuffs

Photo by Jackey

flag of its national brand and seek a way out.

Yesterday's Brilliance

Founded in 1984, JLB gradually became the most famous national brand and was affectionately known as "Chinese magic water". In the past decade, JLB has grown

up and flourished into a successful modern enterprise group thanks to the impetus of its leading drink industry. In 1995, JLB ranked 123rd among the 500 largest industrial corporations in the whole country. In 1997, the annual production value of the Group exceeded 6 bil-

lion yuan.

Today's Embarrassment

Although JLB Group has enjoyed high prestige as a leading drinks brand with fat profit margins, it has long been troubled by financial crises. The newly established office building JLB Tower



An Eastern Entrepreneur with Western Ideas



By Zhao Yijiang

Guangzhou media received a massive shock on the night of November 30th that He Boquan, president of Guangdong Robust Group, had resigned together with four other founders. "We hold very different views about the developing strategy of the company with Danone, the major shareholder. After discussion with the board, we chose to resign," He said in the announcement. It is very natural for him to leave quietly instead of in the midst of quarrels and fights, since he has more experience than other Chinese managers in working with western people, and shares some common values with them.

McKinsey Way

Although the Robust Group

held the leading position in the yogurt industry in 1998, He felt puzzled regarding the group's next move. So he spent 12 million yuan to invite McKinsey to make them leader in the non-carbonated beverage market. When a reporter asked him whether such a large expenditure had proved worthy, he replied, "Although McKinsey doesn't have much consulting experience in China, it has accumulated lots of practical knowledge on a broad range of foreign industries and business. What we need most is the difference that it brought to us. It put us on many roads to success."

SAP System

On account of the short guarantee time of the drinks' industry, a few mistakes in technology and management lead to disaster. So He shook hands with a foreign giant again in 1998. He introduced the ERP system of SAP to his company, the first in the food and drinks industry to

do so, which was uncommon at the time. "The key to winning is management skill and skill in maintaining the high quality of the product. We believed SAP could help us," he explained.

Danone Age

In mid-2000 the Robust Group chose to be acquired 51% by French Danone Group, the world's second-largest food producer. "We hope the cooperation will bring capital, more technology and management expertise to Robust, which will better prepare the firm for the challenges stemming from China's entry to WTO," said He after the acquisition.

But he resigned just after WTO entry. "We chose to leave in order to show our respect to Danone. We hope our decision will bring a brighter future to the whole group. If Chinese enterprises want to be part of the world, we must accept the game rules of western enterprises," He said.

Zhonghua: Farewell to Unilever?

By Zhao Yijiang

"We must take back the brand of Zhonghua from Unilever," Hou Shaoxing, general manager of Shanghai Toothpaste Factory (STF), firmly stated to the media last week.

A Good Start

In 1994, Anglo-Dutch consumer products giant Unilever formed a joint venture with STF called Unilever (Shanghai) Toothpaste, in which Unilever holds 60% of the stocks. The agreement between the two gave the new company the sole right to manufacture, market and sell the products of Zhonghua, which has been the top brand in China's toothpaste industry for decades. It seemed the combination of Zhonghua brand's glorious history and Unilever's advanced technology would bring a promising future to both of them.

Disputes

But after a honeymoon, it's back to real life. Recently Hou Shaoxing complained that the brand had suffered bad treatment at the hands of Unilever. The joint venture company didn't endeavor to push the promotion and sales of the "Zhonghua" toothpaste. According to Hou, the sales volume of Zhonghua reached 38,000 tons compared to 35,000 tons in 1993, while the



Unilever's Signal occupies so much space, but Zhonghua remains invisible

Photo by Chen Shuyi

market size increased by 60%.

Zeng Xiwen, general director for Unilever China's public affairs department, hit back at Hou. He said the firm had given priority to the Zhonghua brand. "On average, 53% of advertising and promotional spending goes to Zhonghua every year." He explained that the market share of Zhonghua had not improved a lot, because many other interna-

tional rivals such as Colgate and Crest entered the market after 1993, stoking up cutthroat competition in the toothpaste industry. Finally, Zeng disclosed that it is impossible to terminate the contract unless STF have enough evidence to prove Unilever didn't fulfill their part of the agreement.

Legal Grounding

Zeng's counterclaim seems more persuasive with some legal grounding. According to a brand leasing agreement signed in 1993, the joint venture has the right to renew the brand of Zhonghua every 10 years. The key condition for renewal is that the total production volume at the last year of the decade should be higher than that of the first year, and the joint venture company must provide no less than 50% investment to promote the Zhonghua brand. The increase in sales and 53% promotion fee is in fitting with the conditions of the contract. STF have no right to take back the brand until 2002.

"If the two sides conduct business properly, they will create a win-win situation. Domestic companies seldom pay enough attention to legal details which often lead to disputes," said Guo Shoukang, a professor at the Renmin University of China.

Microsoft becomes the last multinational to desert Zhongguancun after a number of small and medium companies moved

Out of Zhongguancun

Analysts say the exodus by a number of companies predicts a reborn 'Silicon Valley'

By Shan Jinliang

A symposium on November 30 on improving Zhongguancun's office space brought with it a piece of shocking news: Microsoft (China) is ready to move its offices out of China's so-called 'Silicon Valley'.

Microsoft (China) employees are talking about moving the office to the Central Business District (CBD) in Chaoyang District, as an contract for renting office space with Sigma Tower is in the pipeline, according to a director of the board of a renowned real estate management company that acts as an intermediary for Microsoft.

The main reason for Microsoft's departure is the poor office facilities in Zhongguancun Science Park, he said. The world behemoth has to go all the way to the China World Tower on the East Third Ring Road to hold press conferences, as not even one proper big hotel or big exhibition can be found in the Zhongguancun area. With China's entry to WTO, international companies care more about their own image and thus would not choose Zhongguancun as their ideal office.

Good News or Bad News?

While some are bemoaning the 'empty' science park, a employee of many years at Acer said today's multinationals do not need to stay in the science park as they have set up a comprehensive sales net-

work there.

"Zhongguancun was born to be a market dominated with trade," said Qi Yan, vice president of Beijing Silicon Valley Computer Plaza, adding that it is not necessary to put all the big companies in the park. Beijing Evening News argues that the R&D, market and investment are still concentrated in the park although these multinationals have moved out. "Actually, good working companies have all moved out of the Silicon Valley," said Professor Ma Hengli, an IT magazine editor who has just returned from the US.

Haidian Science Park, Yizhuang Science and Technology Development Zone, and Zhongguancun have formed the city's scientific base. As experts say, Zhongguancun is stepping out its physical boundary while still remaining the root of the big multinationals.

Reborn in Three Years

Zhongguancun is endeavoring to change its own image from inside to outside. Large-scale road and information network constructions are going on in focal areas of the Park. Zhongguancun has also recently launched a credit system on December 1, as an experimental move nationwide.

"A new Zhongguancun will appear for all to see in a short time," said Yang Jianping, section chief of Planning Division of the Managing Committee.



A man passes the Sigma Tower, which houses a lot of multinational companies such as Microsoft, Mitsubishi

Photo by Xiao Shi

Auto Tariffs Witness Dramatic Cut Next Year

By Zhou Lijuan/Shan Jinliang

China's tariffs on auto imports will be cut to a 25% level starting from 2002 to July 1, 2006. Of these, the biggest cut will be seen in 2002. Auto import quota licensing will be eliminated in 2005, said China Automotive News on Monday.

According to an official who declined to be named from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), all the legal documents and attachments related to WTO entry will

be published this month, and all the promises about autos will be included.

The tariff rate for the cars with a volume of less than three liters will be reduced from the current 70% to 43.8% from January 1, 2002, and the rate for cars with a volume above three liters from 80% to 50.7%. This cut is the most substantial for many years. The tariff will be reduced at an irregular rate each year. The average rate for auto parts will be cut to 10% in 2006, said

the official.

China will cancel the auto import quota license in 2005. The preliminary quota of six billion dollars in 2000 will be increased to some eight billion dollars in 2002. By the end of 2004, the auto import quota will rise by 15% year by year. MOFTEC did not mention the proportion of whole autos to auto parts that will inform the auto import quota.

The auto service trade, mainly auto distribution, includes whole-

sale and retailing. Foreign capital can enter the market in auto chain stores from 2002, but the foreign partner cannot control the company when the number of their chain stores exceeds 30. The restriction will be abolished in 2006.

International non-governmental institutions are allowed to enter the auto credit business to engage in auto loans.

The official also pointed out that China's auto industry has to fulfill its other obligations. The

restriction on production model and pattern is to be abolished by 2003, but China has the right to distinguish between trucks, light commercial vehicles and cars. The approved project for cars is not valid for buses. The provincial government can examine and approve investment projects of less than \$30 million, projects of less than \$60 million in 2002, projects of less than 90 million U.S. dollars in 2003, projects of less than 150 million U.S. dollars.

First Air Service JV Upon Approval

By Zhao Hongyi

China Air Service Ltd. (CAS) and Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT) established a joint air transportation service venture, and are waiting for the final approval by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), sources at CAS told Beijing Today this week.

This cooperation marks the market access of China's air transportation service industry at a critical time when the country is entering WTO, experts believe, demonstrating China's commitment to market opening.

Founded in 1987, CAS is the first and now one of the largest IATA (International Air Transport Association) travel agencies in China. Headquartered in Beijing, CAS covers business of air ticket sales, air cargo transportation, hotel booking, meeting passengers at airports, business travel arrangements, passport and visa application, translation, tour guiding and e-business. The company has annual sales of nearly 500 million yuan.

CAS started its association with CWT, a world famous travel management company based in the U.S., for business development in China in 1995.

The joint venture will focus on air transportation services in line with those provided by CAS and CWT. It is believed that it will enable CAS to expand its service network to the world.

"We have been cooperating for the past six years and it is natural for us to establish a joint venture for further market exploration," said a Ms. Liu, who declined to give her full name in a telephone interview with Beijing Today.

"We have submitted the application to CAAC for final approval and hope we can establish the venture early in March or April," concluded Ms. Liu.



China's rail cargo transportation industry needs modernized management Photo by Zhuang Jian

Railways: We're Ready

By Zhao Hongyi

China will open the railway cargo transportation to foreign capital once the country officially enters WTO, scheduled for the end of the year, promised Mr. Fu Zhihuan, Minister of Railways.

According to Mr. Fu, his ministry is currently negotiating with a number of companies from the U.S. and Canada for possible joint rail cargo transportation service agents.

Mr. Fu made these remarks last week at a symposium on railway construction in the west part of China. He also listed the requirements attached to possible cooperation and a loose time schedule for the full opening up of the country's railway transportation industry.

As Mr. Fu stated, in the next three years, foreign investors are limited to holding shares of up to 49% in the joint venture, which will be extended to majority share holding after the three years and 100% share holding in six years.

"We welcome their (foreign investors) entering into the industry because we are self-confident. We are self-confident because we have a comparatively low cost and thus can boast the highest competitiveness in the industry globally," said Mr. Fu.

But Fu didn't mention the opening up of the country's rail passenger transportation market.

When asked why, Mr. Fu replied that the passenger transportation market would be open sooner or later, which is beyond doubt. But before that, China needs to obtain enough experience, observations and analysis from the cargo sector.



The Finance Street, to be built on the old residential site, gives a new look to the western part of Beijing. Steven Townsend (left) is introducing the plan at the press conference held yesterday in Beijing Photo by Yang Xiao

Finance Street Blueprint Draws Financial Institutions

By Zhao Hongyi/Yang Xiao

The Beijing Finance Street project, after several rounds of open bidding, drew up its final blueprint and attracted a number of international financial institutions to consider possible relocating their offices to the district.

Yesterday, the Finance Street Holding and the American urban design and planning company SOM unveiled the final blueprint.

Situated along the west part of the capital's second ring road, the Finance Street district occupies 88 hectares and is the top priority of the Finance Street Holding, which is specifically established for its development.

The company opened its first worldwide bidding for the design of the financial block, which is No. 2 of the seven blocks within the district, and finalized its initiative based on the model made by

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), which specializes in architecture, engineering, planning, interior design and graphics.

According to the design draft, the No. 2 block, the center of the whole district, will be filled with a number of tower buildings for offices, residential and other complex uses. Luxury hotels, a finance club, international conference centers, international schools and residences will occupy a dominant position in the block. Bridges on the second stories will connect most of the skyscrapers. The 34 hectares of total area will be the main location for leisure facilities, commercial business and in some parts, for public transportation.

"Construction will start early next month and is expected to be finished by 2008. The total investment is estimated at 12-15 billion yuan," said Mr. Liu Shichun, direc-

tor general of the company. "We want to build the district into a central business district with the highest capital intensity, largest business turnover, quickest information inflow, best facilities and environment."

"International banks, security brokers and insurance companies are all targets we are encouraging to locate here, including America's Citicorp, Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Bank of East Asia."

7 of the 11 Chinese companies listed by American Fortune magazine in its "World Top 500" are located in the street. These include the State Power Corporation of China, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, China National Chemicals Import & Export Corporation, China Mobile Communications Corporation and China Construction Bank.

Capital Prepares for First Mall

By Yang Xiao

Beijing welcomed its first shopping mall last Thursday at the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area southeast of the city. The sponsor Beijing Land Group revealed that the official name is "Beijing Mall", which is due to open on October 1, 2003. This multifunctional shopping mall will cost 3.3 billion yuan and occupy 600,000 sqm.

Idea changing

Beijing is the principle business center in north China. There were still only two general merchandise stores in Wangfujing and Xidan even by the end of the 1980s, which fell far short of meeting the demand. In the 1990s, the then Beijing municipal government announced that by the end of 2000 Beijing would launch 100 general merchandise stores inside the second ring road. Since then, joint venture general merchandise stores have become more popular, such as the Lufthansa Friendship Shopping

Center that made one billion yuan sales per year till 1995.

But since 1995, the large number of general merchandise stores has led to fierce competition and price wars. Gradually Qianqun and several other stores went bankrupt. Then state-owned or joint venture supermarkets won favor until the idea 'mall' came along.



The merchandise industry of Beijing is experiencing fundamental changes in terms of business concept, management, restructuring and layout in the city Photo by Wang Yanshi

Land Group gets in first

Land Group has won the first position. At the same time Chaoyang District and Spring Co. also plan to build malls in the suburbs. Land Group president Xu Ming said, "as the first mall, we can still make a profit even we cut prices 20% below those in the downtown area. If our sales surmount 3.5 billion yuan per year, we can make even within ten years."

The mall will contain four mega stores including Carrefour, Wal-Mart and other international retail giants. Meanwhile there are 400 specialized boutiques waiting to bid.

Xu Ming considers that Beijing fosters appropriate conditions to receive malls. More and more people are moving out to live on the 4th and 5th Ring Roads, and Beijing has one million private cars. Car owners constitute the main consumer group for shopping malls.

Shanghai already has two malls, and Shenzhen is planning to construct one.

Huarong And Great Wall Sells NPAs

By Zhao Hongyi

China Huarong Asset Management Corporation (AMC) sold non-performing assets (NPAs) with a book value of 10.8 billion yuan to an international consortium led by Morgan Stanley.

The transaction includes four packages of NPAs involving 254 enterprises from 18 Chinese provinces and municipalities, according to Mr. Yang Kaisheng, president of Huarong.

The winning consortium led by Morgan Stanley includes Lehman Brothers, Salomon Smith Barney, KTH Capital Management Co and Zhongjin Fengde Co.

Meanwhile, the Great Wall AMC, another one of China's four state-owned AMCs, signed trust agreements with 28 auction agents on December 5. 92 branches of the 28 agents will launch public auctions in the week of December 15-22 in 28 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country. Total NPAs available for sale amount 4.8 billion yuan, covering industries like real estate, machinery and other manufacturing facilities, transportation facilities, food processing equipment, mechanic facilities manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Great Wall said it is gearing up for an international tender of around 15 billion yuan in bad assets early next year.

Hawaii and Beijing Cooperate in Tourism

By Jiang Zhong

A government delegation from Hawaii set up partnerships with both the Beijing Tourism Administration (BTA) and Beijing Tourism Group (BTG) on December 4.

According to the letter of intention between Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) and BTA, the two parties shall make efforts to hold international conferences and exhibitions in Hawaii and Beijing. When Hawaii bids for the sponsorship of a certain conference or exhibition, BTA will arrange related institutions to give their support. When Beijing bids, HVCB will offer the same support.

The long-term partnerships between the Hawaiian Department of Business and Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) and BTG lie in tourism resource planning and management, tourism marketing, training and exchange of high-level management personnel, hotel management and renovation, communication of market information, agency services, management and communication of exhibitions, management of vehicle rental, and financing and joint operation of related projects.

Accor and BTG Launch Mercure Brand

By Jiang Zhong

French Accor and Beijing Tourism Group (BTG) have committed to forming a new joint venture hotel management company, with master franchise rights to manage and expand the Mercure brand north of China's Yangtze River.

This mandate covers 16 provinces, autonomous regions and three centrally administrated municipalities in China, including Beijing, Tianjin and Chongqing.

Accor and BTG will each take a 50% stake in the new enterprise. The initial objective calls for a minimum network of 20 Mercure hotels during the first three years, growing rapidly to over 50 Mercure hotels after five years, in time for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Accor has managed the Novotel Peace Hotel in Beijing for BTG since April 2000, and this year was awarded a second management contract in the Chinese capital for the Novotel Xinqiao Hotel in August. BTG has also invested in Accor's Hotel Mercure Paris Tour Eiffel Suffren. Accor and BTG are also partners in BTG-Accor Travel and BTG-Accor Corporate Service Company.

Citizens Receive Free HIV Tests

By Sun Ming

A series of activities marking the 14th World AIDS Day took place around Beijing's 18 districts and counties last Saturday.

The Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine provided the public with quick HIV detection in front of Landao Shopping Center, in Chaoyang District.

The free service, which only takes two or three minutes, attracted many curious onlookers, men and women, old and young.

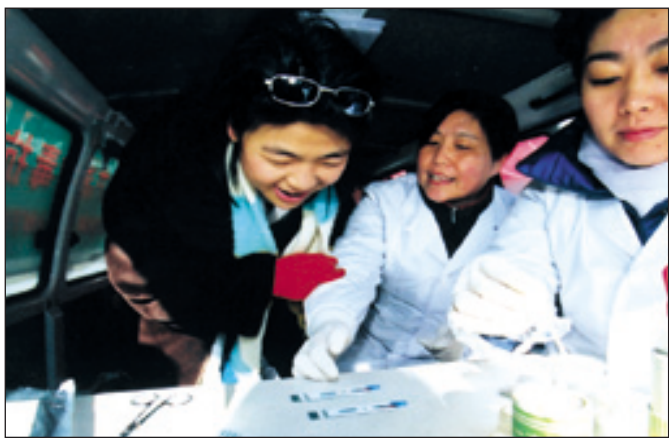
According to the director of the center, the response from the public was much greater than expected, with so many people eager to undergo the test they were unable to keep up with the demand.

However, few citizens were seriously worried about the results of the testing, as they

were quite sure they hadn't been infected with the AIDS virus. The main reason promoting them to undergo the test was the sense of participation.

"I want to express my care and support for AIDS patients," said Duan Li, a bank clerk. "AIDS patients are victims. They need our care and help," added another citizen. They expressed the hope that more people could give care and compassion to AIDS patients and end the discrimination against them.

The reported number of HIV carriers in China is more than 20,000, but the actual number of cases is estimated to exceed 600,000. In the first three quarters of this year, 44 health agencies in Beijing found 220 HIV virus carriers, 77% more than during the same period last year.



A girl observes her own blood sample

Photo by Jia Ting

Leopards Roam Wilds Around Beijing

By Sun Ming

"Leopards, boars, wolves and other wild animals still roam the countryside around Beijing, but there are fewer of them than before," says Gao Wu, a professor at the Capital Normal University. Professor Gao has just finished a wild animal census, which lasted nearly five years.

He says it was the first attempt to count the wild animals in the vicinity of Beijing. According to the survey, there are today more than 280 species of wild animals, where once there were as many as 460.

"We estimate there are some ten leopards roaming the mountains around Beijing today," says Gao, pointing at a picture of a leopards' footprint. The number is much lower than before. There were nearly thirty leopards in the area twenty years ago. According to Gao, not only leopards, but other large wild animals are fewer in number these days.

"Reckless hunting is the main reason," explains Gao.

Even though hunting was prohibited long ago, many law-breakers still use their own homemade shotguns to hunt these animals. In fact, hunting was so rampant around Beijing that many wild animals were scared away.

Another factor in the declining numbers is the continuing spread of humans, leaving the wild animals less and less space in which to roam.

However with action being taken several years ago to crack down on poachers, the situation for wild animals has improved somewhat these years. In the middle of the 1990's, the Public Security Bureau ordered the confiscation of all homemade shotguns found. Without weapons, many poachers have had to abandon hunting.

"The numbers of rabbits has increased in recent years," says Gao. According to him, the increase in the numbers of vegetarians is faster than that of carnivores, because vegetarians breed more quickly.

Customer Emergency First-aid in Beijing

By Su Wei

A national level emergency first-aid system has been established at 28 key markets and supermarkets in Beijing.

Customers will be able to receive first-aid for anything from minor injuries to heart attacks at special counter in these stores, where staff have all taken part in first-aid training provided by the Red Cross Society of Beijing.

The first-aid counters are equipped with stretchers, bandages and splints, and more than ten kinds of emergency medicines, such as nitroglycerine tablets for heart attack.

A man in his 60s visiting one of the new first-aid counters said he thought old people and children would benefit

most from such first-aid equipment.

The customer emergency first-aid system is sponsored by the Chinese Commercial Federation, the Red Cross Association of China and Beijing Tongcheng Promotion Public transportation Advertising Company.

Wen Wu, in charge of administering the system says each set of first-aid equipment costs about 1,000 yuan.

Next year, some 500 to 600 stores in Beijing will be equipped with the customer emergency first-aid system. Meanwhile, large stores in provincial capitals and other main cities will also gradually be equipped with the system.

Santa's Come to Town!

By Jiao Pei

"Please don't go!...come again next year!" A group of children swarmed around the 'real' Santa Claus from Finland who had spent Wednesday afternoon sharing his Christmas spirit with 35 orphans at the Beijing Meng'en Minority Welfare Garden.

As is well known, Santa lives in Lapland's Ear Mountain, in Finland, on the Arctic Circle. On this visit, he reached Beijing on Tuesday, and will stay for six days.

Santa has received a warm welcome from Beijingers, which he reciprocates with a booming 'Ni hao'. His giant frame two meters high and covered in bright red clothes is certainly hard to miss.

Santa has a very exhausting schedule in Beijing. In his short stay in the orphanage, he brought smiles to the faces of 35 children from four minorities with an array of gifts.

"I am much happier than yesterday, because I have met so many children here. I will bring gifts to them on Christmas Eve if they believe in me. Children in every corner of the world can write to me. My address is: Santa Claus' Post Office / SF 96930 Rovaniemi / Finland."

We all know Santa is busy



For 3-year-old Zhang Wenxia, it's love at first sight Photo by Zhuang Jian

in December every year, but what does he do during the other 11 months?

"Maybe I am the busiest man in the world. Last year, I received one million letters and answered all of them with the help of my little Christmas spirits. In last July alone, I received 60,000 travelers from around the world."

Santa always brings happiness to ordinary people, not only with his jolly manner, but also his humor.

When asked how long he had pursued this career, he replied, "Nearly 400 years." "But you look much younger than that!" the reporter protested. "That's because I like to drink a special porridge. It's my favorite. Also I drink deer blood every morning, which really helps you to keep young."

Santa Claus is the best friend of children all over the world. Millions of little kids have dreamt about meeting Santa and getting presents from him.

What will Santa do if Chinese visit him in his home? "Maybe I will make dumplings for them," is the answer. Nowadays, where Santa lives is not important, but the human warmth and tenderness he brings to children is as powerful as it ever has been.

French Hairdressers, Another Choice?



French barber Laurent has worked in Eris Paris Salon for four years

Photo by Qu Liyan

By Chen Ying

"195 yuan for a haircut for a man, 260 yuan for a woman with short hair." So says Xi Lin, an employee of Eric Paris Salon. Although the cost is near ten times that of most local hair salons, more than half the customers are Chinese.

The employees don't try to sell expensive products to cus-

tomers. They always use those that customers choose. This may be one of the key differences with local hair salons.

The big attraction is that the salon is run by a Frenchman, and three French hair stylists work there. Although they need interpreters to help them communicate with the local customers, they are still in great demand. They

also communicate by using body language. These actions make the customer smile and create a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

"People come here because they are French," says interpreter Li Yuhui, and points out that many Beijingers can easily afford to spend this much on a haircut.

It's fashionable to have your hair done by a French hairdresser, because France is seen as the home of fashion.

A customer from Tianjin is having her hair done by Stephanie, and she certainly seems to believe she is getting her money's worth!

In fact, there are now many hair salons employed or run by hairdressers from overseas in Beijing. For instance, two Korean hair stylists work at Yiren Beauty Health Club, at Scitech Plaza. An Englishman runs a hair salon named Gary Lewis Beauty Salon in Holiday-in Lidu Hotel, and an Englishman and a Japanese work at the hair salon at the Palace Hotel.

English Club for Chinese Teenagers

By Tong Qing'an / Ivy Zhang

An English club was established recently at the Moon Bar, just across the street from the west gate of Peking University. It is the first English corner in Beijing specifically targeting high school students.

The purpose, according to the organizer, Sunlight Culture, is to provide a chance for teenagers to improve their spoken English and enhance their communication skills in a casual and pleasant environment.

The gatherings are held every

Saturday afternoon, with a native English speaker as the host.

In addition to lectures and group discussions, participants of ages ranging from 10 to 18 are encouraged to deliver speeches or involve in role playing. Other activities including an English Speech Contest will be held in the near future.

"We hope more English corners like this could spring up in Beijing," says Wang Min from the Language Research Center of Peking University. "For those English learners in high school, they lack a good English speak-



William McDowall from Britain takes teenagers through role play

Photo by Qiu Binbin

ing environment and the corner may serve as an important stepping stone to improve their English level."

Ode to Chinese February Orchid

By Ivy Zhang

Last Sunday afternoon, the "Tale of the Chinese February Orchid" (紫金草的故事) chorus from Japan staged a concert at the Gloria Hotel in celebration of China Radio International's 60th anniversary.

The concert was also in memory of the 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre in 1937, and had as its theme long-term world peace.

It's said that a Japanese soldier collected the seeds of this orchid at the foot of Zijin Mountain in the outskirts of Nanjing and brought them back to Japan during the Japanese occupation of China.

He planted the seeds in Japan to atone for his crimes against the Chinese people and symbolize his hope that such brutality would never happen again.

About 20 years ago, Okado Takako, a Japanese songwriter,

read the story about the Chinese February Orchid in a newspaper and was deeply moved. She subsequently compiled the musical suite named *Tale of the Chinese February Orchid*.

"As a human being, there's something that can't be forgotten, which is peace." Okado noted, "This is the message of the *Tale of the Chinese February Orchid*. I hope all people may one day live in a world free of war."

Chatting on Internet Leads to Nearly Fatal Assault

By Sun Ming

23-year-old Wang Hong liked chatting on the Internet in her spare time. However she never suspected that her hobby could make her almost lose her life.

On October 19, a man she got to know on the Internet severely assaulted her and stole her belongings.

Wang only narrowly escaped from death, and Sun Baifeng, the man who attacked her, was captured last Friday.

On the eve of the October First national holiday, Wang Hong was attracted by the name 'law-anti-jail' when she entered a chat room on the Internet. She subsequently contacted the person on the Internet every day.

According to Wang, she gradually came to feel pity and sympathy toward the person, who claimed that no one had cared for him from his childhood, even though he also said that he often fought with others and had committed crimes.

One evening several days later, the two met at the gate of Beihai Park. "He gave me an unexpected kiss," said Wang. According to her, Sun's crude action scared her away. "I didn't even have the opportunity to ask his real name."

However a week or so later, Wang accepted Sun's invitation again. This time, Sun asked Wang to have a lunch with him and his friend Gao Mingwen.

According to Wang, she left early because of the unpleasant manner of Gao. Sun caught up with her and followed her to Yongdingmen Bridge.

He then pretended to embrace her, and while doing so, slyly removed Wang's mobile phone from her backpack. However just as he did so, the phone rang, alerting Wang to what he was up to.

Sun then took a hammer from his pocket and struck Wang on the head. After she fell to the ground, Sun gathered up all her belongings, including a CD player, a pager and 1,300 yuan.

According to Xuanwu police station, the only clue Wang could provide as to the criminal's identity was his Internet pseudonym, 'law-anti-jail'. But that was sufficient for them to find him eventually.

At nine o'clock on November 30, 'law-anti-jail' reappeared in an Internet chat room after an absence of about one month. The policemen subsequently captured Sun at a net bar near Xisi.

Wife Wants Killer's Child

But do convicted murderers have right to bear children?

By Chen Ying

The wife of a convict on China's death row wants to give birth to their child via artificial insemination.

On November 12, Zheng Xueli, wife of convicted murderer Luo Feng, submitted her written request to Zhejiang Province Higher People's Court, which forwarded the suggestion to the Supreme People's Court.

Zheng seeks to be artificially fertilized by killer Luo, who was sentenced to execution by Zhoushan Intermediate People's Court on August 7. The case is undecided, but debate has already begun in China's media.

Luo awaits his appointment with death at Zhoushan Dinghai Prison. Zhoushan Intermediate People's Court tried his case on July 31 this year and pronounced execution on Lou on August 7. Lou is appealing his case to Zhejiang Province Higher People's Court. Luo, an employee at a Zhoushan trading company, quarreled with Wang Ying, the company's vice manager, over reimbursement of a five-yuan fare on the afternoon of May 29.

Wang slapped Lou and then hit him on the head with an octagonal hammer. The right side of his face swollen by the blow, Lou snatched the hammer from Wang and hit back more than 10 times until Wang was dead. Lou, an only child, met Zheng Xueli on a business trip in Xiamen in February 1999. They married

on June 1, 2000. The day after sentencing, Zheng told her lawyer she wanted to be pregnant through artificial fertilization. Opinions follow:

Zheng Xueli, wife of killer

It came as a surprise to me that what I want to do exposes a blind spot in the law. I was only thinking about my father-in-law and mother-in-law in making my decision. I couldn't stop crying in the lawyer's office when he told me my husband would be executed.

My mother-in-law was wailing "What's to become of us?" At that time, I felt they might gain some comfort if there was a child alongside them. So I made this decision. I'm not pregnant yet because there was something wrong with my health. In fact, Luo and I both wanted a baby.

Xia Cuirong, mother of killer

It's unfair on a weak woman if my son is executed and she is pregnant. Let alone my husband and I adding to her burden. So we disagree with Zheng's request.

Wang Yufeng, officer

I disagree with granting child-bearing rights to convicts and their relatives. I sympathize with that lady, but who can tell me about the similar rights of the dead victim in this case? It's only fair criminals should pay for what they have done.

I think there is something wrong in our society. For instance, a Beijing lawyer killed his wife and boiled her recently. Although the convict was so cruel, there was much noise in some newspapers reporting how his wife was crude toward him and how unfortunate was the guy. But can being crude be taken as a reason to kill someone? Why doesn't the paper investigate the feeling of the victim's relatives?

Zhou Cheng, engineer

Zheng's request is the normal right of a normal woman during her child-bearing period. Moreover, she just wants to be pregnant through artificial insemination instead of making love with her husband. This method is similar to separating off the property belonging to convicts according to legal procedure.

Maybe some people think Zheng shouldn't give birth to her husband's child because they hate him. Others might think it's unsuitable for Zheng because they worry about the future.

Kuya, Internet lover from Sina.com

Although this case involved a convict awaiting execution, a similar problem exists among criminals who have lengthy sentences. If these convicts' partners won't divorce them, then they lose their childbearing rights. There is an age limit to a human being's ability to give birth.



Zhang Xueli still doesn't believe her husband Luo Feng is a murderer

Provided by Newsphoto

There are some difficulties and dangers if birth occurs outside natural childbearing age.

On this point, there is no clear difference between the wives of convicts sentenced for a long time and others of criminals awaiting execution. I think convicts have already been deprived of some rights when they are sentenced to lose their freedom or their lives. Childbirth rights should be counted in. Also some criminals lose the right to marry if they are bachelors before they go to jail. Of course, the law should protect other rights, such as the use of a person's name or reputation

without their permission.

I don't think convicts' partners have been deprived of child-birth rights. These people only lose the right to give birth to the children of convicts.

Lü Jun, lawyer

Whether a criminal in jail can give birth through artificial insemination is a new legal problem created by biotechnology. It's the first case I know of from the media in China. Deprivation of rights for prisoners only involves personal freedom. Criminals should enjoy the same rights as ordinary people if there aren't

any opposing regulations and they don't break the conditions of their imprisonment.

For example, if a convict isn't deprived of his democratic rights, his or her electoral and voting rights should be protected and respected.

And artificial insemination can be put into practice without breaking detainment rules through modern technology. Admitting and respecting the child bearing rights of imprisoned people, including convicts awaiting execution, reflects a kind of humanitarian spirit. It represents progress for a society.



Shuijiang high street

By Chen Ying

The sex proportion is extremely unbalanced in Huangjiao Village, Zhang'an Town and Qiansuo Town of Shuijiang District of Taizhou, Zhejiang province. It is said the situation was caused by a secret ultrasound scan.

The local Family Planning Office released the news on October 12.

An imported ultrasound scanner owned by a "barefoot doctor" named Mr. Shi earned him a tidy income. His full name has not been released to the Chinese media.

Shi charged 300-1,000 yuan fees through middle men from pregnant women. The local Family Planning Office noted the resulted imbalance several years ago and surmised the cause.

But the office claims Shi was cunning, often changing location and covering his tracks. Only on August 11 this year did the office obtain reliable evidence and the police arrested Shi.

Police punished Shi in accordance with Zhejiang Province Family Planning regulations. Police detained Shi for 10 days and his scanner was confiscated.

Beijingers' opinions follow:

Kang Ming, teacher

I just gave birth to a girl in July this year. I had ultrasound three times during pregnancy. The first time I was five months' pregnant. The doctor told me she needed to detect the size of the baby and any abnormality of the fetus. The second was at 40 weeks. The last was when I went to give birth.

I think the traditional idea is out of date in Beijing. Even if some parents want to know the sex of their fetus, it's just because they are curious. Although a doctor-friend told me she could find out for me, I refused. I want to keep the feeling secret until the last.

One of my colleagues told me a true story. A female teacher in another high school took an ultrasound scan where she had been pregnant for several

months. She always wanted a boy. So she aborted after the doctor told her the fetus was female. But the result must have been incorrect because the aborted fetus was male. The teacher wailed, but all for nothing.

Xu Xianming, father to 1-year-old girl

My wife took ultrasound at People's Hospital when she was pregnant. I don't think there is any important distinction between male and female today. I wouldn't let my wife abort even if I knew it was a girl.

Doctor, requested anonymity

The ultrasound scan is necessary to detect abnormality in the fetus or some hereditary diseases according to sex. Doctors should check the fetus' development periodically.

It's a responsibility toward the child and the parents. It's another thing if people just want to know the gender out of traditional views.

It's a Boy!

Of course it is, say mothers of Shuijiang



Shi's scanner is confiscated

Photos by Tian Fangyan

SOUND BITES

"I saw what happened. I saw more than most people because I was in a mounted commando unit which went around, all along the front. So I saw the naqba as it happened: I've been in [emptied] Arab villages where the food was standing on the table and it was still hot... I came out of this war completely convinced that we must make peace with the Palestinian people."

— Uri Avnery, 78-year-old Israeli patriot, war hero and peace campaigner

"Clearly in a situation in which people get disenfranchised, in which people get beaten up so that they don't take an honest decision or act according to their political convictions, obviously there can't be free elections."

— South African President Thabo Mbeki on next year's presidential election in Zimbabwe

"The music and the personalities of the band were the background of our lives. People will be very sad at his death. I think it's worth pointing out that he wasn't just a great musician and artist, he did an immense amount for charity as well, so he will be very, very sadly missed by people right round the world."

— British Prime Minister Tony Blair on the death of Beatles' member George Harrison

By Chen Ying

Domestic violence - Women It affects and how they respond

Women in nuclear families are more likely to be abused

Among the 62% of the abused women who live with their spouses, 23% also live with their spouses' children (from a previous marriage), 21% live alone with their spouses, and 18% also with their own children.

In contrast, only 3% live with their parents and none live with their spouses' parents.

Such family living arrangements are very common in China, especially in cities. Victims of domestic violence are often unable to find a place nearby where they can escape the abuse, and may not have any relatives able to interfere and stop the violence.

Furthermore, women in nuclear families tend to care more about "face" and their family's reputation, and so avoid any steps that might bring their humiliation public.

Divorce may set abused women free

27% of the abused women surveyed chose to divorce after being beaten, followed by 20% seeking help from their relatives or friends and 12% lodging complaints against their husbands or staying with their own parents.

In contrast, only 7% endure the battering and do not consider taking any action afterwards.

It may show that many women seek to be treated equally and to be independent. They usually consider that they also have their own dignity and should not be subject to humiliation.

Furthermore, they may consider these actions, especially divorce, are effective in relieving their suffering.

Concern for children and housing, major factors for women to endure domestic violence

Among the abused women, 77% have children. Meanwhile, of those, 71% have only one child.

They may fear that the child will suffer if they take any steps that could exacerbate the situation, so they tend to try to maintain the family at the cost of their own happiness.

Of the women surveyed, 43% revealed their living arrangements. 40% of these live in houses allotted by their husbands' enterprises, while only 9% live in houses allotted by their own enterprises.

It may suggest that for many women, housing remains a key issue. Despite government initiatives encouraging the renting and purchase of houses on credit, women seem not to be risk takers and are concerned about their inability to repay a loan on their own.

Meanwhile, when most of those women married, the traditional way of allotting houses by the work unit was still biased towards men.

Therefore, many women have to stay in an abusive situation in order to have a roof over their heads.

What is the situation of women who are victims of domestic violence in China today? How do they respond to the abuse they suffer at the hands of their husbands? Is divorce a viable option for them? Why do so many hesitate to seek a divorce?

The Maple Women's Psychological Counseling Center recently released the results of a study of 100 cases of domestic violence randomly selected from hotline cases over the past three years.

The study looked at the psychological pressure and confusion the women suffered, as well as the effects of the weight of traditional values.



Most victims of abuse literate

Among the abused women covered in the survey whose education is known, almost 50% have college education or above, followed by 31% with senior high school education. Less than 1% are totally illiterate.

This may suggest that there is no relationship between a woman's level of education and likelihood of suffering maltreatment, though it was once considered that illiterate women were most at risk.

Meanwhile, educated women in an abusive domestic situation are more familiar with their rights and thus more likely to seek help than those with a low education background.

They might also consider they may avoid losing face through seeking help from a domestic violence hotline instead of from their relatives.

Most women accept violence passively

22% of the abused women only questioned their husbands when they were beaten. 13% and 9% respectively responded by crying or arguing. In contrast, only 10% and 7% respectively called for help or hit back.

Although few women protest actively when their husbands beat them, they are brave to challenge their husbands' power. It suggests that the abused women have realized what their husbands have done and may not forgive them.

Hesitation in seeking divorce

Among the abused women who consider divorce, 35% are hesitant in taking such action compared with 26% who say they are determined to divorce.

It may suggest that some women do not have a clear understanding of the implications of divorce.

Meanwhile, traditional ideas epitomized in common idioms such as "A wife is just like a horse bought by the man" or "Divorce means a mother with sin" may blur the benefit between the women themselves and their family.

They are more likely to believe that family is everything in their life and that they have a responsibility to maintain their family at any cost, despite the fact they may have good cause to seek a divorce.

Furthermore, upon realizing that society may not understand the abused women's suffering or accept their decision for divorce, they may believe that staying in a situation where they are exposed to domestic violence would be safer. At least they have a family.

By Su Wei

北京青年报
BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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Just one year before the accident, Lu Hui was a happy girl full of life

Latest:

Dec. 3 Two representatives from Mitsubishi Beijing visited Lu Hui with a big bouquet and a greeting card, saying that their General Manager was not in Beijing, but that Mitsubishi attached much attention to Lu Hui's case, and hoped that Lu would get well soon.

Dec. 4 Representatives from Mitsubishi, including Anraku Hideaki, General Manager of Mitsubishi's Beijing Office, had a one-hour meeting with Lu Hui's husband and another representative in an office building across the World Trade Center. Mitsubishi expressed their sympathy and concern about what happened to Lu Hui and promised to figure out a solution acceptable to Lu's family soon. No time-frame was given for reaching such a solution.

From Lu's family side, they said they are glad to see that Lu's case is progressing towards a solution. "The case has been dragging on for seven to eight months now. We'll not leave unless there's a definite result. We originally planned to stay in Beijing for one week. Since the General Manager of Mitsubishi Beijing Office was not available until now, we have had to stay for an extra week. It's a case between a Chinese citizen and a well-known international company, we'll take further steps based on Mitsubishi's actions," a representative of Lu's family told Beijing Today.

Pajero Accident Victim Comes to Beijing

A woman who became disabled after being hit by a Mitsubishi Pajero V31 late last year has come to Beijing for rehabilitation and to settle the case against Mitsubishi

By Lu Dang/Ivy Zhang

On November 27, Lu Hui, 31, from Changsha, Hunan Province, arrived in Beijing with the support of a well-wisher who covered their travel expenses. Lu suffers from total paralysis, a result of being hit by a Pajero V31 made by Mitsubishi on December 25 last year. The purpose of her trip is to claim compensation from Mitsubishi and undergo rehabilitation treatment.

According to the investigation report by the Changsha traffic control authority, "Upon seeing the pedestrian, the driver of the Pajero immediately stepped on the brake and turned the steering wheel to the left. With the sudden rupturing of the rear brake cable, the front right corner of the car struck Lu Hui." The cause of the car accident, according to the report, lies in the improper design of the Pajero, whose braking system fails to work when the break cable is broken.

On March 25 this year, Anraku Hideaki from Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Liaison Office Beijing, responded that he would give Lu a definite answer and later he expressed his willingness to "settle this case in a friendly manner". However, at present this case has been suspended.

"Lu Hui's case is the most influential case in China in which a Chinese is the victim of defective products imported from abroad. Its solution will set an example for the settlement of other cases in the same nature in the future," a well-known Chinese TV station reported.

She can't stand up without medical treatment

In the wake of the car accident, Lu was rushed to the local hospital. She was diagnosed with an epidural hematoma, cerebral contusion and a fractured



One year after the accident, Lu Hui came to Beijing in a wheelchair for rehabilitation and case settlement

Photos by Luo Jian

skull. The legal medical expert confirmed that she was completely disabled. Due to financial restraints for the coverage of medical bills, Lu had to discharge herself from hospital this August.

At present, Lu is still in a serious condition. She is unable to stand up and her speech is slurred. In addition, she has made several attempts to commit suicide, because of the severe depression accompanying her condition.

Doctor He Jingjie of the China Rehabilitation Research Center says Lu Hui will never be able to stand up again without specialized medical treatment. Even if she receives such treatment, it is difficult to predict how long it will take for her to be able to stand again; one or two years, or even longer.

In addition, Lu has to pay

30,000 yuan before being admitted to hospital. According to doctor's estimates, a minimum of 200 to 300 yuan is needed to pay for daily treatment.

Husband even considers selling his kidney

By now, Lu has suffered as a result of the accident for nearly one year. Her husband, Zhou Jiahong, has sold the shop the couple have operated for many years in an effort to raise the funds to cover medical bills. In order to raise more money, Zhou has even considered selling one of his kidneys.

"I have no way out. I didn't know that selling one's kidney is not allowed in China. The only hope I have now is to somehow raise more money for Lu Hui's treatment. For this purpose, I can lose my life, to say nothing of my kidney," says Zhou. "So far, we have spent a total of 500,000

yuan on treating Lu. I have tried everything and now I can find no way out."

Having been married for two years before the accident, the couple moved to Changsha and opened a laundry store. In a few years, the business grew into a large laundry center, with more than 30 employees. Lu, who used to be a teacher, was in charge of administration and finance while her husband was in charge of business development. They once determined to work harder to make their business the largest laundry center in Changsha.

Use the force of law

Lu said she hoped that her family may bring her to Beijing, so she could sue Mitsubishi Corporation. In addition, she wants to visit Mitsubishi's Beijing Office and ask them why they have turned such a cold shoulder to a Chinese woman's life and health?

According to Zhou, their trip to Beijing has two reasons. One is to cure Lu Hui, the other is to press Mitsubishi to fulfill its promise of "settling the case in a friendly manner".

Zhou says he would accept any approaches leading to friendly settlement. "I won't bring the case to court unless I come to a dead end. Anyway, the lawsuit will take quite a long time, which does no good to Lu's treatment. The only thing I expect now is that Mitsubishi can get this thing settled quickly. It can't be dragged on any longer."

Mitsubishi denies responsibility

The General Manager of Mitsubishi's Beijing Office, Anraku Hideaki, said in a fax to Beijing Youth Daily on November 26 that the vehicle concerned had not undergone legitimate import procedures, and had been assembled by a local auto maker specializing in farm vehicles in Changde, Hunan Province. As to whether Mitsubishi is liable in the case, he declared that it is the responsibility of the local auto maker in Changde who assembled the vehicle, a fact that can be verified by the registration certificates. Therefore the driver, along with the producer and distributor of the illegally assembled vehicle should be held liable, rather than Mitsubishi.

In the fax, Anraku stated, "Mitsubishi shows much concern about the suffering of Lu and her family. In February this year, the company, on purely humanitarian grounds, provided 120,000 yuan to cover Lu's medical fees". However, this sum has not actually been given by Mitsubishi, in fact, Lu Hui's family is expected to repay it later.

As to the arrival of Lu in Beijing, the fax said that, "All disputes should be resolved within a legal framework."

Anticipation Grows for 2002 World Cup

By Chen Ying

After a long, expectant wait, the final draw for next year's World Cup was announced at the Pusan Exhibition Convention Center in South Korea on last Saturday.

Twelve celebrities, including Pele, Johan Cruyff and Michael Platini, pulled the teams' names from four different pots. The 32 teams have been separated into 8 groups. China, drawn by South Korean veteran Hong Myung-bo, will play in Group C, against Brazil, Turkey and Costa Rica.

The World Cup is again a hot topic in China. This will mark the first time for the event to be held in Asia, and with it taking place in two of China's neighbors, the Chinese seem to be even more eager for its coming.

After 44 years of struggling and waiting, China has finally won the chance to participate in what is unquestionably one of the world's most exciting sporting events. But what does participation in the World Cup bring to China, and what will happen in next year's competition?

How far away is the second round?

It seems to be a stroke of luck for China to be grouped with Brazil, Turkey and Costa Rica. Since coach of the Chinese team Bora Milutinovic has so far led four different national teams to qualify for second round berths in the World Cup in previous competitions from 1986 to 1998, Chinese will have high expectations for

the coming games.

"This result is fine," said Milutinovic, "I am very happy about it."

Although Brazil has been overlooked recently, it's still one of the strongest competitors in Milutinovic's eyes. This will be the third time for him to face Brazil. In 1990, Milutinovic led Costa Rica, and in 1994, the USA, both teams losing to Brazil 1-0. Milutinovic described Turkey as a rapidly progressing team and Costa Rica as a team with passion.

What China needs most, according to the 58-year-old coaching legend, is a desire to win when facing the strongest forces from all over the world next June. He also revealed that the national team was to begin its preparation in January, adding that the team should concentrate on making full preparations and bringing joy to the Chinese people.

But have things gone too smoothly for China since the qualifier games? Are the fans and players sufficiently prepared for what will happen next summer? South Korea has participated in the World Cup twice. But who remembers how depressed the team was on its return? It's true the team won all their games during the qualifying round, but that counts for nothing when the real competition begins.



The most important thing is safety

More than 1,000 armed police were on duty on Saturday when 3,500 honored guests and media attended the draw. FIFA, and the governments and security administrations of both South Korea and Japan have re-focused security

in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack in the USA. FIFA's Security Committee held a meeting in Pusan last week. It is involved in security discussions for the first time before a World Cup, and there will be another meeting in February. FIFA's Security Committee says it is satisfied with all the efforts made by the local organizing committees and the co-operation between the two governments.

The food, drink and medication for all players and coaches at next year's World Cup finals will be tested for anthrax and other poisons, according to the head of FIFA's Security Committee Antonio Matarrese. There may even be no-fly zones declared over the training grounds as well as the stadiums where the matches are being played. He stressed that the 2002 finals will be the safest ever.

Where will fans watch the games?

Many Chinese soccer fans are only too familiar with the torture:

getting up in the middle night, watching the game on TV during the small hours, and being exhausted at work the next day. Fortunately for Chinese fans, with the matches being played so close to home, sleeping patterns will not face such disruption next summer.

China entering the World Cup is also a monumental event for the world soccer business. Nobody can ignore the fact that more than 1,000 million people will be eagerly watching those games. FIFA has realized the potential economic benefit from Chinese fans, and perhaps for this reason, voted to allow the Chinese team to be based in Korea during an executive committee meeting last Wednesday.

So many Chinese fans want to see the games live in South Korea, the tickets allotted for the Chinese team through the Internet sold out moments after the FIFA decision. However, some of the applicants for the tickets to the matches failed to pay until noon Monday and, as a result, lost their chance. Those tickets will go on sale again through the Internet.

No doubt the economies of South Korea and Japan will enjoy a significant boost from the event. The Chinese government is well aware of the potential benefits for the economy of holding international sporting events. Maybe participating in the World Cup is the first step, and bidding to host the event will be the next one for China.



World Cup 2002 final draw was held at the Busan Exhibition Convention Center in South Korea



Three coaches in Group C (from left to right): Luiz Felipe Scolari (Brazil), Senol Günes (Turkey) and Bora Milutinovic (China)

Photos by Hu Jinxi



Enough is Never Enough For Collector Family

By Zhao Pu

Whenever Zhao Hongwei introduces his family, it takes him the better part of a day. Apart from father, mother and two sons, the family includes thousands of objects that the four collector aficionados have made part of their beings for the last 30 odd years.

Entering the Zhao's home is like stepping into a family museum—porcelain, jade, crystal, bronze ware and antique vases are displayed around the treasure gallery that the sitting room has become; hundreds of model cars are parked on the bookcases in the younger brother's bedroom; dozens of stamp albums pose in a glass closet in the parents' room; porcelain and stone ornaments are becomingly placed at the corners and tables of each room...

"We are a collectors family," explains the mother, Kong Jun, when greeting us at their stunningly comprehensive private museum with her husband Zhao Yansheng and their dog (just the one!) Benben. "Everyone in our family has a collecting passion and has been devoted to it for years."

This is an extraordinary feat for an ordinary family; it seems each collection pushes its collector and those surrounding it to search for more. The father presides over the treasure shelf in the sitting room and collects various decorative objects; the mother has been dedicated to stamp collecting for over 30 years and spends hours pouring over the tiny images; the brothers have been long collaborated in collecting model cars with three bookshelves of diecast models as the fruit of their joint efforts.

Stamps came first

Both of the parents have retired from their former occupations, but of course, as with all life passions, never contemplate retiring from collecting. "Collecting takes up most of our leisure, and constitutes a great pleasure in our lives," proudly stated mother Kong Jun.

"I started stamp collecting in 1965 when I was 15 years old." Mother Kong is the earliest col-

lector in the family with a collecting history of some 36 years.

Over a thousand series of stamps have been preserved in 27 albums. Some of her earlier stamps are rarities and are no longer found on the stamp market. "I collect stamps purely for interest and enjoyment, I never sell stamps even though some in my collection have appreciated to quite a high value," she asserts seriously.

While her husband hangs around in antique markets, Kong whiles away hours in post offices buying newly issued stamps. "It's not only about pleasure, sometimes there's also hardship in the collecting." She often needs to queue for hours to get her hands on some hot-selling series of stamps. The animal stamp (生肖邮票) following every Chinese lunar new year is issued on January 5th of each year. Kong was born in the year of the ox; when she was 48 years old in the year of the ox in 1997, she got up at 4 am and went to the post office to buy the ox stamp for her own year. "It was a chilly snowy day and I waited in the queue for nearly four hours before the post office opened."

Her greatest pleasure is browsing those delicate little pictures, "they are records of history and culture." Among her thousand series, she most values the one issued in 1993 in commemoration of Chairman Mao's birth, and the series issued on the return of Hong Kong and Macao in 1997 and 1999.

Father as curator to home art museum

The 53-year-old father has long taken the role as the family's arbiter of elegance, and continues after retirement. The beautiful ornaments on the treasure shelf in the sitting room and at every corner of their home are the evidence. "These are my strengths," smiles the eldest collector in the family, "they total around 600 after the past 20 years of collecting."

Carefully taking down an antique porcelain vase from the shelf, Zhao says that porcelain is his favorite, "I bought this antique vase on a business trip to Shanxi Province: it's a Qing Dy-



nasty (1644-1911) object as you can tell from the flower pattern."

During his travels for business around the country and abroad, he would bring back crafts and souvenirs after each trip, making his home look more and more like an art museum. "I bought this fishbone sculpture in Thailand; that big wooden elephant is a specialty from Yunnan Province; the porcelain ashtray is a souvenir from Japan; these rain-flower carpolites are from the famous Nanjing Revolution Martyr Rain-flower Platform..." As he gladly introduced each of the treasures, his glance moved from one to another lovingly as if recalling the memories and stories hiding behind those unassuming works of art.

"Other people usually bring back local food or small souvenirs after traveling, while he carries these heavy stones and porcelain objects back," commented his wife, laughing. Responding to her words, Zhao remembered a hard-earned deal in Zhangjiajie Nature Reserve. "I was on a tour arranged by my company several years ago, in that beautiful nature reserve in Hunan Province." He was exhausted after several days of climbing and hiking in the mountains. When the group was about to leave the scenic spot to catch the train home, he suddenly saw an attractive five-colored stone on a street stall. "That stone weighs some eight kilograms and I just couldn't let it go, forgetting my exhaustion and the long way to carry it home." Whenever a work of art or crafts catches his eye, he feels as happy as a child and will only be satisfied once it climbs up to his shelf.

Now after retirement, and without business trips, the father has become a frequent visitor to

Panjiayuan Market. "I've come across some wonderful old things in the local market to enrich my collection," he says.

Model cars thicker than blood

Is the collecting mania hereditary? Taking Zhao's family as a unit for analysis, the result seems affirmative. The two sons have developed a common passion for collecting since childhood and the three bookcases of nearly 1,000 diecast model cars are their pride.

The younger brother, Zhao Hongchen, is currently studying at college in Jilin Province. All the models have thus been entrusted to his brother Hongwei's care.



Hongwei, 26 years old, works as an IT engineer with a TV station.

Both of them love cars. Diecast models allow them to have the car of their dreams at a fraction of the cost of the real thing. No maintenance, no registration, less parking space required, no likelihood of damage from fellow motorists and zero fuel bills.

"My hobby of collecting model cars was inspired by a birthday present from my mom," remember Hongwei, "she presented three little colorful models to me on my ninth birthday: a white ambu-

lance, yellow bus and a red police car. The three little cars caught my imagination and put me on the road to collecting models.

The younger boy was in kindergarten at that time, and would steal his brother's little cars taking them to show his buddies at school, recalled their mom. "I bought them model cars as a kind of incentive when they got high marks in school; the cars I bought them were much simpler than the ones they collected later and cost only one to two yuan each."

As they grew up, their collection became more and more professional. They have a clear division of partnership: Hongwei collects modern cars, whereas Hongchen focuses on old cars.

"Our common interest brings us closer together than other brothers," the brothers both feel. The two lads grew up together through collecting models. According to Hongwei, they seldom quarrel, "As far as I remember, only once." The reason for the quarrel has been forgotten, but it was certainly not over the cars. Hongwei went out to the market to search for new models after the quarrel. When he came back with a splendid new model, the younger boy couldn't help but approach him to observe the new car. "When it comes to the little cars, we are always in perfect accord."

So far, they have established detailed archives for their cars and are planning to build a website for their collection. "We can hopefully make more friends who are also into collecting model cars," says Hongwei.

Moreover, the whole family shares a common hobby, collecting money. Not just that kind

of money we all collect (and collect), but coins. The parents collect commemorative coins; the elder brother likes foreign coins, and the younger boy focuses on ancient coins. After you tour around their respective collection armories, they'll probably bring out the three albums of coins to surprise you, and maybe impress you further still.

They collect their own things and tell their own passions and stories, but the fun and pleasure in each of the collections are fully shared within the family.

So why collect? "Simply to enjoy life better," the collector mom concluded.



- ① The mother reviews her stamps with the family
- ② The father carefully cleans a porcelain vase
- ③ Zhao Hongwei searches for new car models in a local market
- ④ The three bookshelves of diecast models are the fruits of the brothers' joint efforts
- ⑤ The father shows the album of commemorative coins

Photos by Zhuang Jian

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By Miao Yajie

One word for “antique” in Chinese is古玩 (guwan), of which the connotation of the latter character, as interpreted by many, implies that these curios are for people to fondle in their hands, and to appreciate.

Collection of antiques flourishes in a time of prosperity. According to statistics, as many as 30 million individual antique collectors have appeared nationwide in recent years in China. People collect all kinds of antiques, from furniture to porcelain, jade ware to paintings and calligraphy, among which porcelain collectors cover a large proportion. However, whether state-owned museums or private galleries, no special space had been given over to fragmented porcelain, thus turning the opening of the first ever Porcelain Fragments Gallery in Beijing three weeks ago into quite an event.

The gallery, located inside a teahouse named Antique-gateway (睦明唐) near Guangqumen Bridge, Chongwen District, is a forerunner aiming at collecting and displaying bits of broken porcelain. The oldest of their collections dates back thousands of years, and the most recent, two or three hundred years. Altogether several ten thousand fragments have been divided into 30 categories, including specimens from the well-known kilns from the Tang Dynasty (619-907) to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Due to the extremely high levels of craftsmanship in ancient times, porcelain from the famous kilns of the day was of great value. There used to be a popular saying among ordinary people, “Owning a fortune of a million is not as good as owning a piece of porcelain from Jun kiln, and a fragment from Ru kiln.”

Prices for ancient porcelain have surged on the global market since the 1980s. As early as 1989, porcelain from the Yongzheng period (1723-1735) of the Qing Dynasty has already surpassed ten million Hong Kong dollars in value. The non-regenerative feature of antiques determines that every well-preserved piece of ancient porcelain existing is a rare treasure.

Undoubtedly, it's impossible for most antique lovers to own such an object, but to touch those precious things is also a mission impossible for many. When opportunities for such encounters arise, there is always a glass wall between man and the man-made treasure, in museums, galleries or exhibitions.

Therefore the ‘Touch Area’ in Antique-gateway is a very welcome development in gallery



Porcelain Fragments

Calm the Heart



Photos by Wang Wei

conception. Of course capital is essential in collection, but the most important of all is one's perceptiveness. Experts point out that to enhance one's perceptiveness, the fastest way is to fondle real antiques in one's hand. This is exactly what the 350-square-meter exhibition hall offers to each visitor. Actually long before the gallery obtained its official authorization and opened to the public, it enjoyed quite a reputation in art circles. An art student came all the way from Xi'an just to have a look at a fragment of the official Shufu Kiln porcelain of the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368).

As for Bai Ming, who has traveled to ancient kiln sites, to all the construction sites in

Beijing, and to antique flea markets along with two partners, Jiang Yu and Cheng Haorui, to fondle a piece of his collection in his own hand means even more. The three collectors entered into a partnership and set up the Antique-gateway Teahouse as a venue for friends to gather and share experiences of their enthusiasm for porcelain.

Bai acquired his love for porcelain during his college days, and later a box of porcelain fragments that his father-in-law gave him set the foundations for his hobby and career over the following ten years.

In the process Bai calls “piecing the pieces of culture together”, not only was his impatient and impetuous personality

changed, but also his understanding of life.

“Compared with these pieces made some hundred or even a thousand years ago, life is so short. Holding them in one's hand is like holding a piece of congealed, solid history. I feel that all the competition in life is paltry and meaningless. Living a life like this, I feel so contented,” said Bai.

Another thing that makes Bai and his partners so contented are their ten thousand pieces of Ru kiln porcelain. Ru kiln, the best kiln among the five imperial kilns of the Song Dynasty, existed only for 20 years in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Since the majority of the articles were for the imperial court, Ru kiln porcelains were rare even in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). About 60 complete articles are still in existence throughout the whole world, mainly kept in large museums in places like Beijing, Taipei, and London.

The value of Ru kiln articles definitely not only lies in its roughcast, its color, and its craft. A friend of Bai once spent over a million yuan on a piece of porcelain from the Ru Kiln and came to him for verification. When Bai told him it was just a copy, and this friend questioned him furiously, Bai said that he could tell because craftsmen in the Song Dynasty baked porcelain with their souls. Their hearts were very quiet. People nowadays bake the articles for money, so they can't reach the level of elaboration and grace of the Song porcelain. There is no need to verify from the color of the glaze, the nature of the body, or the shape.

Therefore, according to Bai, the first and foremost quality for a collector is to quieten his heart down. Whenever he has time Bai gathers his friends, each handling a fragment under soft light, with a cup of green tea before him, and the hustle and bustle of life is gradually left behind.

Starting from a personal interest the first private gallery of this kind nationwide, probably worldwide, Bai's experience warms people with persevering belief, and also inspires people demonstrating how far the love for culture can go.

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Admission: 5 yuan for entrance to museum; free of charge if you have tea Website: www.antique-gateway.com.cn

Residents Active in Donating Old Bricks

By Zhu Lin

Although the Ming Dynasty Ruins Park under construction has received 160,000 old bricks collected from Beijing residents over the past four years, the number of old bricks is far from enough.

Starting from October 1997, the construction of the park has been creeping forward at a snail's pace for lack of old bricks. In order to keep the original appearance of the ruins, old bricks made in the Ming and Qing dynasties are required. Now only one part of the city wall, 57.6 meters long, is complete after an input of two million old bricks.

“After the Beijing Evening News revealed that all the bricks had been used up by November 24, we received another thirty thousand bricks from residents,” said Xu Ziwang, a member of staff at the park. Wei Jinshan, a retired worker has been collecting bricks for the park for years. He donated a further eight on December 3.

But that's only a weak back-up. The construction of the park requires more than a few million old bricks, but now there are no more than one-tenth of the total. “If we can't find enough bricks, we'll have to change the way of building the park,” said Xu. The alternative plan is still under discussion.

Antique Temple On Point of Resurgence

By Zhao Pu

Pudu Temple (普度寺), designated as one of the 25 historical and cultural protected areas in Beijing, will be restored by the end of this year.

Enveloped by narrow zigzag lanes and crowded residential compounds, the original Buddhist temple stands in a mess of newly dismantled houses and construction materials. “99% of the temple area residents have moved out, as the restoration project of the temple is about to start,” revealed sources from the government of Dongcheng District.

The temple, located in the center of Nanchizi (南池子) to the east of the Forbidden City, dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It was originally a residence of Emperor Yingzong in the 15th century. It was once inhabited by a prince in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and was later converted into a Buddhist temple by Emperor Kangxi in 1694.

The temple used to be a tranquil worshipping place in its early years, but has faded due to disrepair and man-made damage. After 1949, the temple was occupied by an elementary school and some local residents. The only remaining gate and big hall of the temple were all used as classrooms of the school.

As the first section to be preserved in the 25 historical and cultural reserved areas, the preparatory work of the restoration of Pudu temple has been launched since this summer. “The elementary school moved out first in June this year, and most of the residents scattered in the temple have moved to Jiadaokou (交道口),” said the source.

The restoration of the temple will start after the government finishes the infrastructure work of the area. And according to the Cultural Relics Office of Dongcheng District, the temple will be restored in accordance with its original appearance and layout.



The dilapidated temple surrounded by dismantled constructions

Photo by Cui Hao

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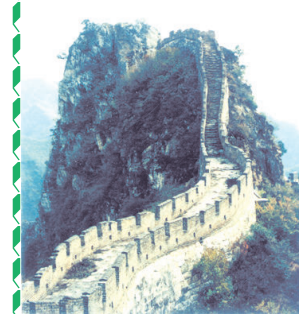
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Time Flies, Thus Everything Grows



By Shi Xinyu

Finally released from the PC screen and the click of a mouse, readers have from September been able to hold a paper copy of 'Everything Grows', the maiden work of Feng Tang, between their hands and read it anywhere in any possible pose. In fact, before the first 6,000 paper copies were published by China Film Press, 'Everything Grows' had already been a hot seller on web site <http://www.bookoo.com.cn> in digital copies. From the day it was released online, this e-book costing five yuan was downloaded at least 25 times a day in the first 4 month.

Witty and sharp are the most frequently heard comments on 'Everything Grows', a novel about campus life in early 1990s Beijing. The main thread connecting all plots is Qiu Shui, a young man

studying in a famous medical school. Love affairs with "my first love", "my girlfriend" and "Liu Qing", three women symbolizing the past, the present and the future respectively, reflects the course of the man's growth.

With wry black humor, Feng Tang, the 30-year-old author who used to be a doctor of medicine, a master of business administration and presently an employee of a consulting company, traces those ignorant, romantic, acid and robust growing days. "Some kind of weird vividness floats between the lines. I can feel the gloom left by the elapsing of time dissolved in those young days, and the pain aroused by growing confuses those young lives, unforgettable and irresistible," commented Yi Ming, a reader on the BBS of www.sina.com.cn.



Illustration of 'Everything Grows'



Photo by Wang Zhenlong

Feng Tang, that guy born in the first year of 1970s, just published his maiden work *Everything Grows*. Because of his unchangeable birth time he would be one of the eldest among the group of writers born in the 1970s who represent a new power in the field of writing in recent years. But he has just appeared now, so late, I am afraid as to whether he can catch the tail of those tides.

— Yi Ming

My Girl Friend

When I was young, I was full of sweet fantasies for the opposite sex, something I could not resist at all. My girlfriend would give me the perfect excuse for our next encounter when we were dating, so relations between us developed in a natural and easy way. Sometimes I tried to recall those excuses, reckoning they might come in handy next time I courted some other girl; or they could be useful to my own daughter in the future. But anyway, I found nothing left in my mind. And now, when I think of those days, I feel I was just like a novel in her hand that, page by page, from beginning to the end, she read in an icy blast of wind. Finally, as she closed the book and gave me a dreamy smile, I stood there, naked from head to tail like a fool, having been terminated.

In the following days, my girlfriend showed a world of curiosity about my past. With the women's intuition, and seemingly professional psychoanalytic skills, she helped me accomplish the whole physical and mental processes to recall or to practice my first erection, first wet dream, first kiss and the moment I lost my virginity. It seems there is a woman scientist who is famous for her research on apes in West Africa: does she have records of the apes' whole physical and mental processes of their first erection, first wet dream, first kiss and the moment they lost their virginity in her test memo?

My girlfriend knew all my ex-lovers' names, birthdays, favors and contact

phone numbers, even more accurately than I could remember. During the long studying time every night, when we walked arm in arm in the former imperial gardens at break time to rest our eyes between every hour, she often picked one of my ex-lovers' name randomly and asked me to narrate all the stories that had happened between us. After my narration, she would inspire me to use my gift of the gab to degrade the girl's appearance to something as horrible as Dong Shi (representative of ugly women in Chinese history) and the girl's heart as evil as Queen Liu (representative of scheming and cruel women in Chinese history).

Lunar Lake and Solar Tower

In the two years of my premedical life in B University, I had a pretty girlfriend and carefree days.

Every morning I would struggle to get up and ate two eggs my girlfriend boiled for me. Everyday I would spend five minutes washing my face and peeing. And every two or three days I would have a shave. Then I would ride to the classroom on a bike with no bell, no brake and no license, with a bag and a dinner box in a rickety front basket that was twisted after too many "hard landings". To the sound of a spoon and fork in my dinner box, I always stumbled into the classroom.

Sometimes I listened carefully to the teachers while other times, when I lost patience, I would turn to the trees out the window or the pretty girls sitting in front of me. There were some

real beauties from the Biological Department in the classroom that had some classes together with us. Anyway since those eye-catchers were free to browse, I always sat at the very back in the classroom to guarantee a complete view. At that time, I could feel I was growing robustly day by day.

I had meals together with my girlfriend in the university dining hall. The experience of choosing an acceptable dining hall among the seven available ones on campus was something like picking up a comparatively clean pair of briefs to wear from a pile of dirty clothes in the morning. My girlfriend would ask me whether I had a good appetite. When I did, she would buy 800 grams of rice, otherwise she would buy 600 grams. Actually I always had a poor appetite but my girlfriend always had a good one.

When my girlfriend went to buy us meals, I was responsible for finding vacant seats. When we were eating, my eyes were kept busy looking around and discovering who was accosting whom or who was feeding whom. I have to admit that most of the girls who always tried to behave like elegant fair ladies often had poor table manners.

After the meal, my girlfriend went to wash our dinner boxes and I stayed seated to guard our bags. At noon I needed a nap. For a fleshless man like me, once the stomach was full, the blood supply would be in short supply to the brain, so I felt sleepy. So if I could not have a nap at that time, I would look like a drug-user out of drugs.

After supper, hand in hand, my girl-

friend and I would head to study in a classroom. She would always occupy some good seats in the third or fourth teaching building. For the good seats, both of the two fluorescent lamps above should give out bright light, so you would not feel tired if you read for a long time. Anyway, it was not easy to find such good seats in any teaching building in our B University.

We would not go to study in the library because all sorts of fisticuffs broke out there everyday over disputed seats, and sometimes some unfortunate wounded individuals even had to be rushed to hospital.

To tell the truth, none of those guys fighting for seats was crazy for studying. The library was warm in winter and cool in summer, making it the perfect place for them to sleep hunched over the desks. More attractive still was the reading room on the second floor, it not only provided the latest magazines, but also was often patronized by many pretty girls. If a pretty girl sat beside you, you could have a chance to see how she sat down, how she let her hair unfasten, how she tidied up her bag and how she did her hair up again. If a pretty girl sat beside you and bent over the desk for a nap at the same time with you, then when you came back to the dorm you could declare as loudly as possible: "That girl bla bla bla slept with me today!"

— Extract from *Everything Grows*
Translated by Shi Xinyu

— Shi Tao

Reading the book *Everything Grows* is like listening to a pal shouting his mouth off. Looking at his dramatic face, I just wonder secretly which sentence from his mouth is true. Okay, you could forbid a Beijinger from eating, drinking, shitting and pissing, but you could never prevent him from boasting — that is what I concluded after one and a half years in Beijing.

— Lan Bing

Feng Tang, a young author, wrote a novel named *Everything Grows*. In the introduction, he uses others' words to define himself as: "a third-class doctor, a second-class businessman, a first-class lover to beauties, and a born talent as a writer." Then he persuaded us not to believe that nonsense and to make our own judgement.

— Gao Xuan



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Photo by Liu Ping

Romeo Goes Straight for Bedroom

By Zhu Lin

Famous for interpreting classics, Youri Vámos, choreographer of Deutsche Oper am Rhein from Germany, brought a modern version of Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* to the Beijing Exhibition Concert Hall on December 1 and 2.

In the new adaptation, Juliet wears her hair in a bob like an innocent schoolgirl. Rather than standing under Juliet's balcony imparting dulcet lyrics, Romeo steps straight into her bedroom. As he gracefully flits onto her bed, Juliet slips out of his reach by sliding onto the ground. "I just want to make this work closer to today's audiences," said Vámos.

Although the Chinese audience was more familiar with the original ballet version, they gradually accepted it. "The old version left a deep impression on me," said Fang Liangsi, a seasoned dance fan, "But I was also touched by this one, especially seeing Juliet expressing her love in such a straightforward way."

In order to fit contemporary psychology Vámos lengthens some parts when Romeo and Juliet face each other in passionate encounters; at the same time he cuts the ending when the two families turn hostility into friendship. The young couple dies in mutual warm embrace. "Beauty is thus destroyed!" said Ou Jianping, the dance critic, impressed by the dancers' lively acting.

Porgy and Bess Arrive Untimely

By Zhu Lin

Audiences in Beijing finally got a chance to appreciate an entire work from Broadway, Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess*, on December 2 and 3 at the Great Hall of the People. This Western opera comes fresh on the heels of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical gala in September. Unfortunately however, the timing of the performance was more than a little off. So many spectators left before the end that the guard at the entrance thought the opera had finished.

The problem in a nutshell was: no Chinese subtitles. Ji Jinghan, director of the Performing Department of Beijing Performing Co., Ltd, sponsor of the performance, said he had predicted the language problem. "But we didn't have the time for translations since the materials arrived too late," Ji said. If there had been a Chinese translation, the public would have at least given it a chance.

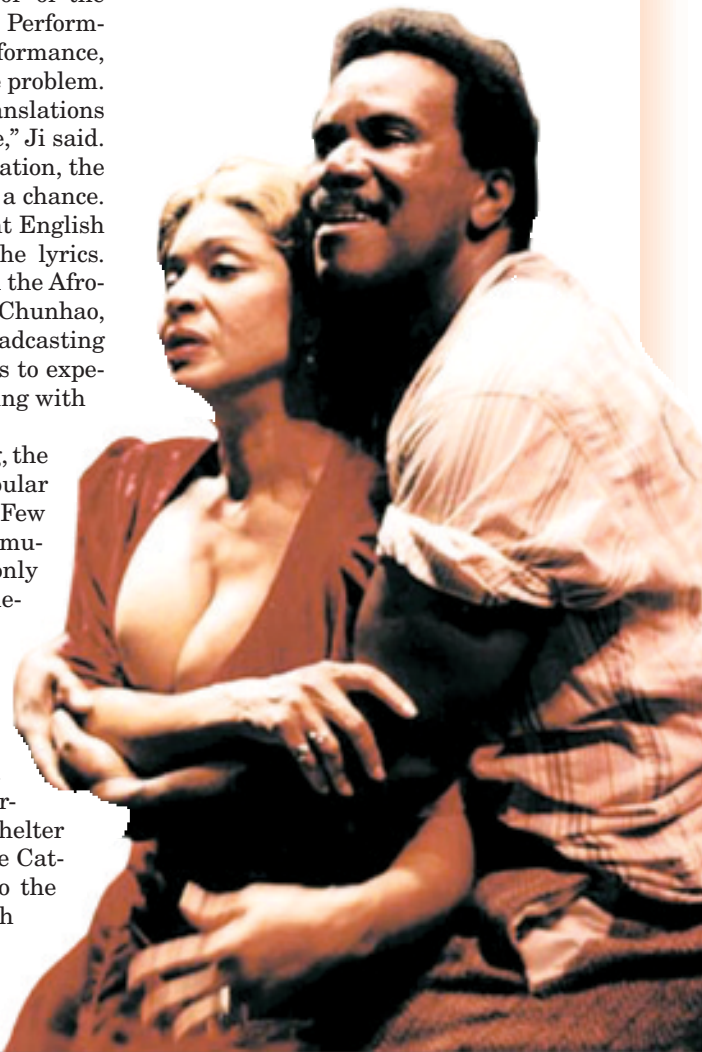
Even those who can speak fluent English had difficulty in understanding the lyrics. "It's so hard for me to keep up with the Afro-American slang," complained Chen Chunhao, who graduated from Beijing Broadcasting and Television Institute and claims to experience no difficulty in communicating with foreigners in English.

Before the opera came to Beijing, the only work by George Gershwin popular in China was his *Blue Rhapsody*. "Few Chinese people can respond to his music style," explained Ji, "they've only accepted Italian-style opera with melodious arias and brilliant staging."

Porgy and Bess is based on the DuBose Heyward novel, with music composed by George Gershwin. It tells the moving story of a cripple, Porgy, who witnesses a murder during a dice game. He gives shelter to the murderer's woman Bess. The Catfish Row community is opposed to the union, but Porgy and Bess love each other. Their happiness turns to tragedy after Porgy learns that

Bess has become a prostitute. The story is touching, but the cultural background is too far removed from most Chinese audiences. When Porgy sang, "I've got no car, no money; but I've got my girl and my lord," few members of the audience empathized with his passion.

A lot more water needs to flow under the bridge before *Porgy and Bess* is accepted by Chinese audiences. Its flop furthermore serves as a reminder to sponsors that it's a bad idea to go roaring ahead with a project according to their own whims.



Opera Experiment Faces Challenge

By Xiao Xia

A public of around 200 witnessed the birth of China's first mini-theater opera, *Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again*, on December 1 at the Small Theater of People's Art Theater. Over the last decade, Chinese mini-theater drama has come into full blossom, successfully enlarging its style and theme in different experimental forms. The first mini opera has aroused excitement from both audiences and the media.

Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again tells a love story taking place in the first half of the 1900s. All the heroes are well-known celebrities in intellectual circles. In order to portray this love story, composer Zhou Xueshi set the music in a slow and timid rhythm. "We managed to avoid the traditional dramatic conflict in most operas, and tried several experimental elements," said Zhou. "Such a style is suitable for this topic and its special form," commented Mo Fan, a renowned composer, after the dress rehearsal on November 30. Chinese ancient instruments and modern dance appeared in daring juxtaposition on the mini stage.

Even after the flamboyant birth of experimental opera in Beijing, its future development is far from assured. According to the investor, 400,000 yuan was the base amount poured into the opera, which is ten times the average cost of a mini-theater drama because of the special requirements of opera. While the investor hopes this initial inflow of capital "will make a new way for the opera", the profit margins are not the most important consideration.

A mini drama will earn back the investment after about 20 shows with each ticket costing 50 to 80 yuan. Tickets for *Saying Goodbye to Cambridge Again* cost 100 yuan each. To be sure, the newly born opera is unlikely to perform over 100 times as Broadway musicals do. Therefore the lack of profitability will almost certainly cool the ambitions of other investors and prevent any further experimentation. However you dress it up, the final goal of any investment is profit.



Photo by Li Yan

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China in a Photographer's Eye

Panjiayuan



Flea Market

By Lydia

In a corner of Panjiayuan Flea Market, there's a distinctive stall with black-and-white photos showing

Chinese folk culture covering one wall and a table. It is more like a photo gallery with all these photos framed and hanging, than a shop.

Each weekend the little stall attracts many customers, both from home and abroad. The photographs are all taken by the owner of the stall, Wen Hengmin, or Jack Wen, as his foreign friends call him. "Jack Wen is very famous, it's just that not many people know," Jack always jokes.

Jack's major in college was English, but his favorite has always been photography, for which he quit his job as a college tutor many years ago. After studying photography at the China National Arts & Crafts Institute, Jack threw himself into the challenging but rewarding world of photography. During more than 10 years, he has traveled almost all over China and recorded with his cameras the daily life of common people, and also the disappearing folk custom and sites. His pictures show the real China and the real Chinese, one of the main reasons they are so warmly welcomed by foreigners.

Photography is a career that requires a large investment, both for the purchase of equipment and of materials. Jack is improving his technique while at the same time trying to sell his work in order to finance his beloved career. He established his stall at Panjiayuan last May, and through it, has made many friends, like the cultural attaché of the French embassy, a Russian reporter, the vice-president of US Qualcomm Inc., and a counselor from the Nigerian embassy.

One of Jack's favorite photos shows an ancient alley in Lijiang, in southwest China's Yunnan Province. Shot in the soft morning light, the three Naxi people and the ancient houses on either side of the alley create an exquisite atmosphere.

There are many more fascinating photos you should have a look at for yourself. And have a chat with Jack, his English is very good!

Where: end of the calligraphy and painting alley of the Antique Hall.

When: each Sat. & Sun, 9am-4:30pm.



Two old men playing chess beside a canal in Zhouzhuang, Jiangsu Province Photo by Wen Hengmin

Twin Sisters' Dragon Dream

By Lydia

Framed traditional Chinese artifacts are very popular nowadays, for it is easy and convenient for foreigners to accept traditional Chinese art in a modern way. Thus, you can see everywhere in folk markets and antique shops jade carvings, embroidery or ancient pieces of porcelain exquisitely framed and hung on the wall. However, Zhang's Textile is a little expensive, and those framed items you see in markets might be of dubious quality.

Twin sisters Kuai Yi and Kuai Yue established their company GlobalNew less than one year ago. Both of them gave up accounting to concentrate on presenting framed traditional Chinese crafts. In their work studio you can see many beautifully and exquisitely decorated

framed artworks, including embroidery, pieces of ancient robes, three-inch shoes, shadow puppets, tea sets, jade ware, door and furniture decorations and carvings.

GlobalNew purchases the best quality frames and matboard from Italy, Malaysia and the U.S. "Inferior quality matboard and frames often becomes distorted over time," says the younger sister, "We are trying to frame the genuine Chinese art, everything we can imagine and present to the world."

With the help of an uncle in the U.S., the twins have made successful inroads into the American market, and when Chinese leaders visit

other countries, they often take one or two GlobalNew products with them as gifts. "Nowadays many local people might not be familiar with us, as we don't even have our own showrooms or shops." This is just the distinctive character GlobalNew possesses, for many of their creative ideas can be said to be in some way unique in China.

"We are proud to be the descendents of the dragon, and we are willing to be the link to the heritage of Chinese culture," says an introduction to the twins products.

Add: 98 Jianguolu, Chaoyang District, RM 1205, Block A, Shengshi Garden (盛世家园), near Soho New Town.

Tel: 65677489/90, contact Kuai Yi & Kuai Yue. **Fax:** 65677637.

Email: globalnew@yahoo.com.cn.



Framed embroidery of a bowl



Lijiang ancient alley
Photo by Wen Hengmin

Move Over Mickey Mouse Here Comes QQ Penguin

By Priscilla

Since the online chat program OICQ first appeared in China, it has attracted numerous followers. OICQ, now called QQ, is the Chinese version of ICQ. Now, the symbol of QQ, a cute penguin, has become a popular cartoon image around China, vying for popularity with the likes of Mickey Mouse and Bobdog.

The first QQ specialty shop, situated beside Shuang'an Department Store near Zhongguancun opened on November 26th. Occupying about 80 square meters, the shop is crammed with clothes, hats, photo frames, watches, soft toys, jigsaw puzzle, cups, bags, decorations for mobiles, wallets and stationery, all bearing the QQ logo of a little penguin.

QQ fans are mostly young people who use QQ as a chat and work tool. The shop manager is a recent graduate named Guan Ling. She says they want to give the virtual QQ society a 'real' base. More people will accept it after seeing the cute penguin on articles of daily life.

QQ membership cards are also sold at 120 yuan. In future, members can join activities held by QQ at regular intervals. Those who pay 200 yuan will get a free CD and if you pay 500 yuan, as well as club membership and the CD, you will also get a ticket to the Yu Quan (羽泉) Band fans meeting. If you like chatting, you can also download an English version of QQ. **Add:** FC09, 3F, Beijing Science & Technology Exhibition Center, between Shuang'an Department Store and Digital Mansion, Haidian District, bus 302, 801, 731, 831 to Shuang'an. **Open:** 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 62119044/68472437.



By Priscilla

For those of you who can't keep up with the latest trends in dining, Sichuan and Hunan cuisine is out, Jiangxi is in. And if you like sampling different tastes, a newly opened restaurant serving Jiangxi style cooking, called Lao Yuan Zi (Old Garden), is highly recommended.

Just off Sanlitun North Bar Street (Jiu Ba Bei Jie 酒吧北街), between the Old Character Hakka Restaurant and X-cross Bar, Old Garden opened on October 1st. The door is in the style of a courtyard house, with a horizontal inscribed board reading Lao Yuan Zi above it. The tables and chairs are simple in style, and wood sculptures like windows hang on the wall of the dining room, which can seat 50-60 people.

The dishes are described as "Jiangxi private style" and the chefs, all from Jiangxi Province, keep their cooking methods a closely guarded secret (indeed, there are few restaurants in Beijing that offer Jiangxi dishes). The specialties are five to six kinds of earthen-jar soup, including stewed wild chicken with mushroom soup and simmered soup with pork knuckle and soybean. The manager, Meng Muzi says the soup should be cooked for at least 10 hours, and some have special medicinal properties.

Another popular dish is fish head with cake, while the menu also offers Sichuan and Guangdong dishes. The soups range in price from 30-40 yuan, and the average cost per head is about 50 yuan. An English menu is available. Recommended: Sauna Cuisines where the food is cooked on a stone grill, crucian carp roasted in a bamboo lattice, and Jinggang bamboo shoots.

Add: Sanlitun Bei yijie, between Old Character Hakka Restaurant and X Cross Bar. Go north along Sanlitun North Bar Street for 300 meters, turn left at the Italian Restaurant and go 30 meters, turn right and it's 50 meters on your right.

Open: daily, 10am-2:30pm, 5-11pm. **Tel:** 64164631.

SOUTHERN STYLE SOUPS



Photo by Chen Shuyi

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Renting - local VS foreign approved

By Wang Dandan

Foreigners in Beijing may rent either officially designated foreigner-approved apartments, or ordinary local ones, so long as the owner has obtained the appropriate license. So what is the difference between a local apartment with license and a foreigner-approved apartment?

Local apartments are cheaper

According to Dong Jingtao, vice manager of Dongrunfengjing, a local apartment building licensed for rental to foreigners, the apartment has a good security system, a key factor, and is significantly cheaper than foreigner-approved apartments.

Take a 140-square-meter apartment as an example. Fully furnished by the owner, the apartment costs 8,000 yuan per month, or almost 1/3 the price of a corresponding foreigner-approved apartment.

In terms of decoration and furnishings, it is of a similar standard to many foreigner-approved apartment complexes. The most obvious difference is that most of the residents are locals, rather than foreigners.

The community facilities might not be as extensive as those in foreigner-approved projects. There are no swimming pools, table-tennis rooms or community clubs. In fact there is a local apartment complex with the license offering such facilities, but the rental price is almost as high as that of a foreigner-

approved apartment.

Foreigner-approved apartments have better facilities and environment

When you choose an apartment, the community facilities offered can be an important consideration. Take Chaoyang Garden (The Sun Crest) as an example. It offers not only a full range of entertainment facilities (restaurants, cinema etc.), but a

children's playroom as well. Most of the residents are foreigners; with about 55% coming from Europe and America, 35% from Asia and 5% local people.

The developers of foreigner-approved projects are usually from Hong Kong and Taiwan. They are experienced in developing top-quality apartments and provide top services. They know the needs of their target customers and how

to cater to them. The developers of local projects tend to be local developers, who are experienced in developing large, economical communities.

What would you choose?

Clearly if you are not too concerned about up-market entertainment facilities, and don't mind living in a Chinese community, you can save a lot of money living in a local apartment.



Pictures by Xie Feng

Can you live without sunshine?

By Wang Dandan

Air, water and sunshine are the basic requirements for humans to live in this world. When you walk on the street, you can enjoy the sunshine on a sunny day. When you are at home, you can sit by the window in the sun, provided your windows don't all face north!

However, all these sunshine suddenly disappeared from Helen's home, when a nine-story building was constructed right in front of her home, on what should have been a grassy area, according to in the computer image on the sales brochure.

Helen sued the developer to return the house to him, but lost the case. There was no clause in the contract stating that the house could be re-

turned if the grassy area was replaced by a building!

Helen then sued for compensation. This time she won, but it was a very small victory. The developer was required to pay 300 yuan per month

to each affected apartment, until such time as the building is demolished. Even if she lived there for 100 years, it would only amount to 300,000 yuan. Would you sell your sunshine for 300 yuan a month?

Xu Chendi, a lawyer with Zhongsheng Law Firm suggests that you should include the original blueprint of the project, which is examined by the Beijing Bureau of Land Administration, in the contract. If there is any change from this blueprint, you can then return the house to the developer.



Guest
Quiz

Target: Traders Hotel
When: 18:30-19:30, Tuesday, Nov. 5th
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

Christine Roquigny, France

I have been working for a big company and we've got a contract rate with this hotel. I left the company several months ago but when I was back, they give me the same contract rate as I've had. I like it, though I do not care much about the money.

Saeb Erekat, Palestine

I usually stay in the four-star hotel when I travel around. But when I do business, I like to choose a hotel located near a five-star hotel. It is convenient to invite them to dinner or entertainment in the five-star hotel. As you see, China World Hotel is just nearby.

Bill Chambers, Germany

When I come to Beijing, I hold exhibitions. There is an exhibition center in the China World Hotel. I just pay a four-star hotel for my living and can take advantage of a five-star hotel exhibition center. Of course, there are also many other five-star hotels in this area. If I am not satisfied with this center, I just transfer to another one.



By Wang Yang

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What fees should you pay?

By Wang Dandan

Of all the problems related to developers, that of what fees you have to pay and how much is one of the most troublesome.

Tax and related fees

According to regulations on tax, property tax is payable to the tax bureau after you get your property right certificate. However, some developers ask the purchaser to pay this tax in advance. This is illegal. Developers have no right to demand prior payment of the tax.

After you get the certificate, you can entrust the developer to pay the tax for you. As the developer will not pay the tax apartment by apartment, they would usually get 10 or more apartments at a time and go to the tax bureau together. Of course, you can pay the developer a certain amount of commission fees. You can also ask a lawyer to go through all these procedures.

Decoration fees

There are no regulations governing such fees as decoration management fees, decoration deposit, card fees for decoration workers and garbage collection fees.

On one hand, problems arise when a purchaser decorates their apartments; demolishing walls, working late at night, using elevators to transport sand and cement, etc. The property management company must allocate staff to the public areas to monitor or prevent such things happening.

The Ministry of Construction and Beijing Construction Bureau are currently working out such regulations, but they will take some time to be finalized.

Suggestions:

As for an apartment, the decoration management fees should be no more than 200 yuan. As

for the deposit, a common apartment would cost 1,000 yuan to 2,000 yuan, and for a top-level apartment, the deposit should be around 10,000 yuan. The deposit should be returned if the owner did not damage any public utilities.

For the cost of cards for workers, it should be no more than five or ten yuan per worker.

Garbage collection fees should be 20 yuan per apartment. If the property management company asks for more than that, you can refuse to pay.

Property management fees

Regulations stipulate that property management should be no more than one year, which means you just pay the fee every 12 months.

As for the deposit for the management fees and water and electricity fees, this usually applies in the top-level apartments, commonly no more than three months. This is because most people living in the top-level apartments are foreigners or business people, and they are often away from home. It is OK to pay the deposit, but it should not be for more than three months.

Parking fees.

Usually it costs 150 yuan for one car per month in common apartments. As for underground parking fees, you have to negotiate with the management company and there are no regulations governing such fees as yet. When you visit a friend and park your car temporarily in the area, then the charge should be no more than 4 yuan per hour, and a receipt should be issued.

Space calculation fees.

This should be paid by the developer and he should invite officials from the Measurement Bureau to calculate your home space.

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Office prices

COFCO Plaza:

Rent: US\$42/month/sqm(net)

Location: Jianguomennei Avenue, Dongcheng District. Located in Jianguomennei Ave., facing Chang'an Street and close to Jianguomen and Beijing Railway Station and subway station.

Continental Building:

Rent: US\$19/month/sqm

Location: Gulouwai Street, Dongcheng District. Located between North Second Ring Road and North Third Ring Road.

Eagle Run Plaza:

Rent: US\$22-25/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. It is across the street from the Third Embassy District and close to Lufthansa Center and 10 minutes walk to bus station at Third Ring Road.

First Shanghai Center:

Rent: US\$26/month/sqm

Location: Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District.

Grand Place:

Rent: US\$26.5/month/sqm

Location: Anli Road, Chaoyang District. In Asian Game Village.

Hyundai Millennium Tower:

Rent: US\$28/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. Being close to the Lufthansa Center and Landmark towers.

Jing An Center:

Rent: US\$23-27/month/sqm

Location: Zuojiashuang, Chaoyang District. It is close to Beijing International Exhibition Center, Royal Hotel and Carrefour Supermarket and also near the Third Ring Road.

Lufthansa Center:

Rent: US\$52/month/sqm(net)

Location: Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District. Close to east Third Ring Road.

Pacific Century Place:

Rent: US\$36/month/sqm

Location: Gongtibi Road, Chaoyang District. Close to East Third Ring.

Raycom Infotech Park Tower A:

Rent: US\$25-30/month/sqm (excluding management fee)

Location: Zhongkeyuannan Road, Haidian District.

Silver Tower:

Rent: US\$35/month/sqm

Location: Northeast Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District. Close to Hilton Hotel, located conveniently near the Third Ring Road and airport express way.

China Life Tower:

Rent: US\$45/month/sqm(net)

Location: Chaoyangmenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. It is only 100 meters away from Chaoyangmen subway station.

China Resources Building:

Rent: US\$36.8-38.8/month/sqm

Location: Jianguomen North Avenue, Dongcheng District.

CITIC Building:

Rent: US\$36/month/sqm(net)

Location: Jianguomenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District. Located in east part of Chang'an Avenue, with International Club on its west across the street, and the Embassy District on its south.

The Exchange Beijing:

Rent: US\$29.5/month/sqm

Location: Dongsanhuannan Road, Chaoyang District. Located at the intersection of Jianguomenwai Avenue and East Third Ring Road Expressway. Located right above the Guomao Subway Station.

Towercrest Plaza:

Rent: US\$20-23/month/sqm

Location: Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang District. The Beijing International Airport remains a ten minutes' drive.

The above information is weekly updated and for reference only DTZ Debenham Tie Leung provides the above information. For further information, please go to www.dtz.com www.dtz.bj.cn
Email: residential@dtz.bj.cn

Parties



African Nights Party DJs X-press, Albert, Sinvula, "C" and other guest DJs will bring the music of African dance halls, reggae, zouk, UK garage, soul, R&B, Hip hop and more. **Where:** The Velvet Room (丝绒俱乐部), Liangmaqiao Nanlu, near Schillers 2. **When:** Dec. 15, from 10pm. **Admission:** 20 yuan, 15 yuan for students and ladies. **Tel:** 64609365.



Beijing International Christmas Party Christmas is coming and St. Nicklaus is sharing his favorite recipe for the coolest party with the warmest spirit. Santa's helpers are bringing Lapland's famous stew to Beijing for 2 days only! The ingredients are: Santa's blend of modern dance performance, a Sumptuous 5 Course Feast, Rudolf's Favourite Games, and plenty of air tickets, cruise ship tickets and other fabulous gifts and prizes. **Where:** Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiaolu, east of the



Lufthansa Shopping City, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 15-16. **Admission:** 388-888 yuan. 788 yuan, Dec. 15, 11am-3pm, 888 yuan, Dec. 16, 11am-3pm, 588 yuan for adults, 388 yuan for kids. **Where to get the tickets:** All Beijing Starbucks Coffee outlets, www.webtix.com.cn, www.piao.com.cn and others. **Tel:** 85261912/15/17.

Weather

Friday
December 7

Clear to cloudy
Max: 6C. Min: -4C.

Saturday
December 8

Cloudy to clear
Max: 2C. Min: -6C.

Sunday
December 9

Cloudy to overcast
Max: 1C. Min: -5C.

Monday
December 10

Overcast to cloudy,
snow
Max: 0C. Min: -5C.

Tuesday
December 11

Overcast to clear
Max: 1C. Min: -6C.

Wednesday
December 12

Clear, high winds
Max: -1C. Min: -8C.

Thursday
December 13

Clear
Max: 0C. Min: -10C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902522

By Priscilla / Lydia

Music

Symphonic Concert China Philharmonic Orchestra. Hua Yanjun/Wu Zuqiang: The Moon Reflected in the "Erquan" Spring; Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat; Krzysztof Penderecki: Symphony No. 4. Wu Ying: piano. Conductor: Krzysztof Penderecki. **Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** Dec. 15, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-220 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

20th Century Film Songs Concert Why are the flowers so red? Schindler's

List and more. **When:** Dec. 8, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-150 yuan. Oscar & Hollywood Film Songs Symphonic Concert China Opera & Dance Symphony Orchestra. Music from Titanic, The Bridges of Madison County, Out of Africa, Star Wars, Ghost, Waterloo Bridge and more. **When:** Dec. 15, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 30-280 yuan. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhonguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **Tel:** 88545501, 68419220.

Korean Singers Concert SM Entertainment's Kangta, Wen Xi Jun, Shen Hua, Fly to the Sky. **Where:** Beijing Workers' Gym, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 15, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 120-800 yuan. **Tel:** 65016655.

Music from Italian Operas Concert Liu Yanrong, Tian Li, Shen Yun, Jin Zhengjian. **Where:** Art Salon, Crown Plaza Hotel (皇冠假日酒店), **When:** Dec. 15, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 65133388.



The State Academic Russian Choir

Hei Bao (Black Leopard) A popular, "old-wave" rock & roll band with a loyal following. **Where:** Rhine River Bar, right side of Xuezhigiao, north of Jinmenqiao (箭门桥), Haidian District, near NASA. **When:** Dec. 15, 9pm. **Admission:** 80 yuan. **Tel:** 82049579.

Mn Record Music Festival **When:** Dec. 8. People's Record Music Festival AU, Hung on the Box, Mi San Dao, Joyside. **When:** Dec. 14. **Where:** Get Lucky, east of the south gate of University of International Business & Economics (对外经贸大学), Taiyanggonglu, Chaoyang District, northeast Beijing. **Admission:** 20 yuan. **Tel:** 64299109.

Rock'n'Roll Night Five rock bands. **Where:** Sweetness (有戏酒吧), 19 Liangmaqiaolu, 1km east of Luthansa. **When:** Dec. 8. **Tel:** 84562899.

Music at Bars Mitabe, Jam House, South Bar Street, Sanlitun, Dec. 7, 9pm, 65063845. Wild Children, River Bar, South Bar Street, Dec. 7, 9:30pm, 82083896.

Concert by the State Academic Russian Choir Artistic director: Igor Raevski. Katiusha, Meadowland, Volga Boat Song, Song about a little birch, The Evening Bell Ring, Santa Lucia, Slavic Hymn, Either I Go, Or I Stay, Consecrated War, Angel Praise the Lord, Ave Maria Lullaby. **Where:** National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhonguancun Nandajie, Haidian District. **When:** Dec. 21, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-480 yuan. **Tel:** 88545501, 68419220.

Now on Sale

Worldwide Famous Brands Discount CERRUTI, 70% discount; MAX-MARA, 50% discount; E. Zegna, under 50% discount; Mariella Burani, 70-80% discount; CD, 60-80% discount; SCHERRER, 60-70% discount; GBR, 70% discount; KENZO, 60-80% discount; LANCEL, 60% discount; GIVENCHY, 60% discount; ALMA, 90% discount; K&C, 70-80% discount, and others. **Where:** -1F, World Trade Center Shopping City, No. 2 Multifunction Hall, China Grand Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec.

7-8, 11am-8pm. **Tel:** 65052288 ext. 80201.

Touch Africa A dedicate store dealing with various African handicrafts which were collected by the owner himself from Africa. There will be a discount of 10%-40% and if you buy something here you'll surely have an exquisite calendar about Touch Africa. **Where:** 18 Chaowaidajie, B1, CA, Fullink Plaza, Touch Africa, bus 112, 109 to Chaowaidajie or subway to Chaoyangmen. **When:** Dec 15-Jan 5, 2002. **Tel:** 65884633. **Web:** <http://touchafrica.yeah.net>.

Performances

The Tragedy of Yuanmingyuan

A 4-act classical dance opera, performed by Beijing Song & Dance Troupe, tells the story about the building and destruction of Yuanmingyuan, the Garden of Gardens. Directed by Chen Weiya, music composed by Zhao Jiping, starring Sun Xiaojuan, Wang Zihan. **Where:** Tianqiao Theater (天桥剧场), 33 Beiweilu, Xuanwu District. **When:** Dec. 15-19, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-380 yuan, 580 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 66416666, 67761224, 65101309.



Carmen To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first public performance by the Central Opera Ensemble of Bizet's Carmen. Directed by Shi Xiupin. **Where:** Poly Theater, **When:** Dec. 7-9, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 80-500 yuan. **Tel:** 65514787, 65065345.

Beijing Opera Beijing Feng Lei Peking Opera Troupe. Chi Sang Zhen, Dao Xian Cao, Dang Ma, Xiao Shang He. **Where:** Huguang Guild Hall, 3 Hufangqiaolu, Xuanwu District. **When:** Dec. 7-14, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan VIP. **Tel:** 63518284, 63529134.

Intoxication in the Air Starring Ding Xiaohan, Luo Luang. A story about a middle-aged man who is not successful in his career. His wife demands a divorce and

he has to accept it, but in his mind, he still cherishes beautiful dreams. **Where:** Seven-colored Light Children's Theater (七色光儿童剧院), 14 Ju'er Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng District. **When:** till Dec. 12, 7:15pm; Dec. 8-9, 2pm. **Admission:** 60 yuan. **Tel:** 84022285.



The Nutcracker Central Ballet Troupe. **Where:** Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongsishitiao. **When:** Dec 12-14, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 100-400 yuan, 300-580 yuan box. **Tel:** 65001188-5682.



Activities

Chines Culture Club - Learn Chinese Paper-cutting Visit a tiny paper-cut gallery and studio in a traditional courtyard in a downtown hutong. **Where:** Liu Ren Paper-cut House (刘韧剪纸屋), 16 Shoushuihe Hutong, Xinquanhu Street, South of Xidan intersection. **When:** Dec 9, Sun, 2:30-5pm. **Fee:** 20 yuan. **Tel:** 8462-2081/1350-103-5145 (Feng Cheng).

Traditional Chinese Auspicious Designs Class introducing Chinese traditional culture on auspicious designs. The speaker, Mr Dai Dai is the board member of Beijing



Hua Cheng Public Sales, and manager of the Chinese Art Dept. **Where:** Multi-function hall at LCC (Beijing Language and Cultural Center for Diplomatic Missions), 7 Sanlitun Beixiaoqie. **When:** Dec 11, 7:30-9:30pm. **Fee:** 200 yuan/person (materials and small gifts included); 180 yuan (materials cost and small gift included) for LCC students. **Tel:** 65323005/65324303.

Exciting Festive Programs at The Malls at Oriental Plaza The official Grand Opening of The Malls at Oriental Plaza took place on Dec 2. The month of Dec. includes interesting festive activities like clown performances, tattoo-drawing, Christmas gifts exhibition, etc. Customers will also participate in the "Your Dream at The Malls" contest to get a chance to win their dream wish. **Where:** Oriental Plaza, beside Wangfujing Street. **When:** till the end of Dec. **Tel:** 85188888 ext 2864.

Movies



Italian Movie - Germania Anno Zero (Germany, Year Zero)

Directed by Roberto Rossellini, Italy/France/Germany, 1947. **Where:** Space For Imagination Coffee Shop (Box Cafe), 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaolu, Haidian District, bus 355 to Shuangqinglu. **When:** Dec. 8. **Tel:** 62791280.

Korean Movie - There Is No Sun Directed by Kim Sung Soo, starring Jung Woo Sung, Lee Jung Jea. **Where:** 5F, Hyundai Millennium Tower (现代盛世大厦), 38 Xiaoyunlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 14, 5:30pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 84538112-4.

DV Pie Professor Wu Mu gives lectures on digital videos screened. **Where:** Sweetness, 19 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 7-8, 6-9pm. **Tel:** 84562899.

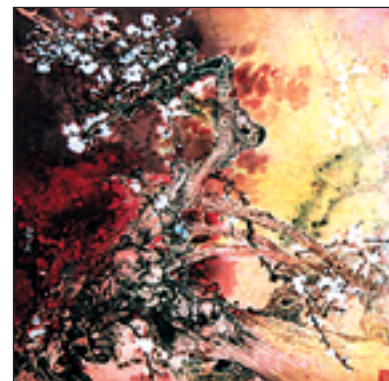
Absolute Emotion (绝对情感) A love story about young people. **Where:** cinemas around Beijing. **When:** from Dec. 14.



Exhibitions



End - Start 2001 - Exhibition of Posters by Contemporary Chinese Artists Jointly organized by Design Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the magazine Art and Design to showcase the different art styles of Chinese contemporary artists, their ideas and understanding of the life and society in the new century through the unique art form of poster design. Featuring 50 artists including Cao Li, Fang Lijun, Lin Yilin, Liu Xiaodong, Shen Ling and artists from Shanghai, Li Shan, Qin Yifeng and Zhang Enli. **Where:** Red Gate Gallery (红门画廊), Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen. **When:** Dec. 8-23, 10am-5pm, Tue-Sun. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65251005.



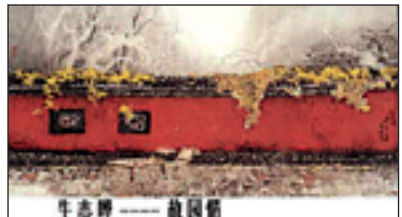
Black & White Image - Picasso Engravings Exhibition 161 works

created from 1942 to 1968, mostly Picasso's mature works. It is the biggest exhibition of Picasso's original paintings. Also the imitation activity for young students is held during the exhibition. The best paintings will be collected by the Art Museum of China Millennium. **Where:** Art Museum of the China Millennium Monument (中华世纪坛), A9 Fuxinglu, Xicheng District. **When:** Dec. 13-Feb. 19. **Admission:** 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students. **Tel:** 68513322.

Liu Kun's New Works Exhibition

Born in 1968, graduate of the Chinese Academy of Art and Design. **Where:** the Courtyard Gallery, 95 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** Dec. 8-Jan, 11am-7pm, Mon.-Sat, 12am-7pm, Sun. **Admission:** Free. **Tel:** 65268882.

The Past-Colorful Ink & Wash Elite Exhibition Over 70 works by more than 20 artists, including Zhang Lijun, Cao Xue'an, Sun Chengxin. Showing the folk architecture and human scenery of China in the 1920s and 30s. **Where:** Huangshicheng Gallery (皇史宬), 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District, bus 1, 4, 57 to Tian'anmen, then walk. **When:** till Dec. 15, 9am-5pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65289103.



Dining Out

Traditional English Style Afternoon Tea Selection of sandwiches, freshly baked scones with cream, teacakes and pastries. Chinese tea, English tea, or freshly brewed coffee; only 58 yuan. **Where:** Lobby of Jianguo Hotel, 5 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. Bbus 1, 4, 57, 43, 48, 120 to Yong'anli. **When:** daily, 2:30-5:30pm. **Tel:** 65002233.

Special Seafood Hot Pot H.K. chef Xie Wen has prepared five kinds of special sauces for Seafood Hot Pot. The hot pot set menu includes eight kinds of seafood, beef, and three kinds of vegetables and bean curd. All priced at 168 yuan. **Where:** 26 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong,

Mudan Garden. **Tel:** 65125555.

New Opening Restaurant

Tong Lian Hotel Restaurant offers dinner and live show. First class food, wide choice of seafood and winter hot pot. Dancing girls and cover singers for entertainment. **Where:** Baoding Center, Chongwen District. **Tel:** 67082809.

Cabo (酷堡) Under-rated little bar with a Mexican atmosphere. Buy one and get one free for beer and soft drinks. **Where:** 24 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, inside overseas Chinese Village, bus 1, 4, 9 to Ritanlu. **Open:** Fri & Sat, 10pm, Latin Party; Sun & Mon, 7-8:30pm, Classes for Latin Dance. **Tel:** 65156826.0

Auctions

Autumn Auction of Hanhai 3,000 antiques and ancient works of art will go under the hammer. Among them, four treasures have been valued at between one and eight million yuan. **Where:** Jingguang New World Hotel, Dongsanhuanlu, Chaoyang District. **When:** Dec. 8-10. **Tel:** 63182926.

Pottery, Calligraphy and Paintings About 600 pieces of antiques will go under the hammer. **Where:** 2F, Banquet Hall, Swissotel Hotel, Dongsishitiao, subway to Dongsishitiao. **When:** Dec. 7, from 9:30am (pottery in the morning, calligraphy & paintings in the afternoon). **Tel:** 65541749.

Outdoor Action

Testing Your Stamina to the Limit

By Yang Bo
The two similar sounding names Dahaituo (大海陀) and Haituofeng (海陀峰) are frequently mentioned these days when local backpacking and mountain climbing enthusiasts get together. Not only the names of the neighboring mountains are similar, they also feature similar elevation and terrain as well. If you want to test yourself, or perhaps your recently acquired mountaineering gear, these two mountains offer some very challenging terrain.

Dahaituo, the third highest mountain in Hebei Province, is 2,241 meters above sea level, and lies adjacent to Beijing's Yudushan (玉都山) Scenic Spot in Yanqing.

Haituofeng, the second highest peak in Beijing, is 2,200 meters above sea level, and is situated in Songshan (松山) Scenic Spot, Beijing. A ridge connects the two mountains, and not a single inch of land in this area has been developed. It is truly a backpackers' paradise.

It is about three hours' drive from Yayuncun (Asian Games Village) to Yudushan (Jade Capital Mountain). When the road comes to an end, it's time to say good-bye to your car.

There is a small village and a stream here. A path alongside the stream takes you in a northwesterly direction. After walking for some twenty minutes, the path branches. Take the fork that leads away from the stream, to your right, and continue hiking into a big valley.

A dry river course in the valley will help keep you heading in the right direction. Sometimes the mountains on either side come together and seemingly offer no way for hikers. The small passage worn by the stream over thousands of years is the sole option, however you will have to crawl on your hands and knees for some of the way.

At the other end where the water emerges, the stream widens again. The trees alongside can be quite troublesome here, dipping their countless branches into the water and blocking your way. You have to make like a monkey at times, jumping, creeping and climbing, in a real test of your acrobatic skills.

Around three hours later, the real climbing begins. The gradient of the slope of Dahaituo mountain varies between 70 and 80 degree. You can only see the ankles of your companion, who is only a meter ahead. It is not much different from climbing a vertical wall.

The climbing seems endless. After four hours, nothing seems to have changed; same gradient, same forest and the same trembling in the legs and arms, however it will be getting dark now, so turn on your lamp, and try to find a relatively horizontal spot to set up camp.

Climbing on the second day seems much easier. A good night's sleep brings boundless energy and good luck and after six hours of climbing, the summit of Dahaituo is not far away. Standing on the summit, you can see three wooden poles marking the summit of Haituofeng not far away to the west, set up by climbers some years ago.

The subsequent hike along the ridge between the two mountains is a Sunday afternoon stroll after the previous day and a half of climbing. On your left is the deep valley, and on your right a large grassland.

The summit of Haituofeng is under your feet soon, another grassland. The mountains of Hebei Province lie to the north and east, Guanting Reservoir, Beijing biggest reservoir, to the south, and Donglingshan (东灵山), the highest mountain in Beijing Municipality is to the southwest, creating a magnificent panoramic spectacle.

Descend the mountain to the south, one hour to cross the grassland, another five hours through forest. You will have to concentrate on preventing yourself from rushing too quickly down the steep slope. When you reach the bottom of the valley, you will be in Songshan Scenic Spot. There is a stone paved path here, and in two hours you will get to the entrance of the scenic spot, where you can hire a taxi to get back your car (20 kilometers, 40 yuan)

How to get there:
Take bus 919 from Deshengmen to Yanqing (one and a half hours, ten yuan), then bus 920 from Yanqing to Shanbanquan (山板泉), hire a taxi to the starting point (ten kilometers, 30 yuan). Tell the driver you are going to climb Dahaituo.

Alternative route:
Hire a taxi in Yanqing to the entrance to Songshan Scenic Spot, get out at Xidazhuangke Village (30 yuan), climb to the summit of the Haituofeng then hike to Dahaituog.

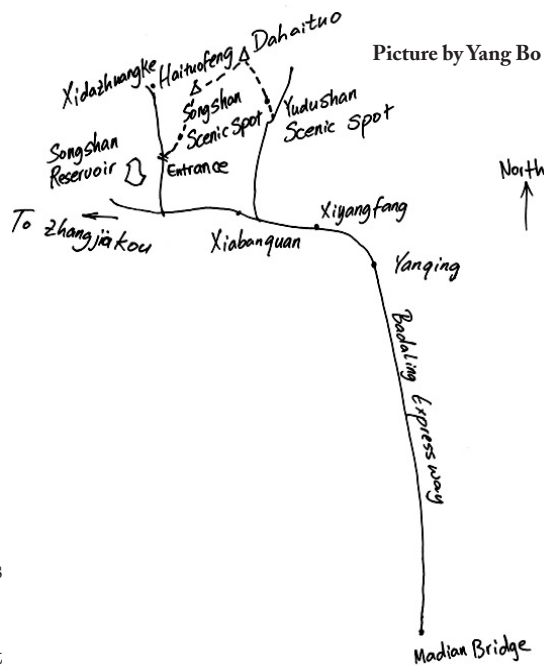
Songshan Scenic Spot is 90 kilometers from the Beijing City, it is renowned for its thermal springs, forests, waterfalls, pools, caves and strange rock formations.

How to get there: bus from Deshengmen to the scenic spot (2 hours, 12 yuan).

Admittance: 30 yuan
Yudushan Scenic Spot is 30 kilometers to the northwest of Yanqing County. Many ancient tombs have been discovered here.

How to get there: bus from Yanqing to Shanbanquan, then walk for 10 kilometers.

For more information about Beijing's outdoor action, please check www.travel-photograph.com, or contact Yang Bo at 68463552/68463550



Picture by Yang Bo

Cultural Tour



A wall paintings in the Liao tomb showing some court of-ficials playing musical instruments

By James Han

Four hundred years ago, when the weather in Beijing started getting colder at the onset of winter, Qing Dynasty Emperor Kangxi used to head for the Chicheng (赤城) Thermal Springs in Hebei Province, to take a hot bath.

In fact, the Chicheng Thermal Springs were famous long before the Qing Dynasty came to power. In 1578, Huang Yingsu, a Ming Dynasty court official, conferred on it the title "Guan Wai Di Yi Quan" (No. 1 Thermal Spring in North China). The tablet bearing the title remains intact today. Hot water still bubbles from the springs, and if you are suffering from the cold, a visit for a rejuvenating bath might be just the thing. The temperature of the water can reach 68 Centigrade. Many magnificent ancient buildings can also be found in the vicinity, containing historical relics that prove the royal status of the spring.

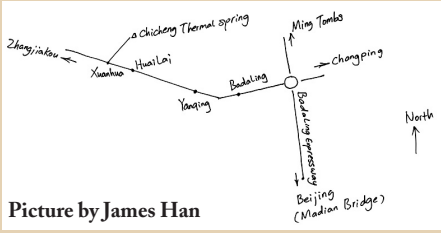
There are also various well-preserved historical relics along the route to the springs, such as Qingyuan Building (清远楼), Zhenshuo Building (镇朔楼), and Liao Tomb in Xuanhua (宣化) City.

Qingyuan Building was built in 1482 in the Ming Dynasty. A giant bronze bell, 2.5 meters in height, 1.7 meters in diameter and 5,000 kilograms in weight, was stored there, hence its other name Bell Tower.

Zhenshuo Building, built in 1440, lies to the south of Qingyuan Building. It features many tablets and plaques that bear the calligraphy of various emperors of the Qing and Ming dynasties. A big drum once hung from the ceiling of the building, so it was also called Drum Tower.

The Liao Tomb comprises two huge chambers and a passage connecting them. The wall painting in the tomb offers many valuable materials for LiaoDynasty study.

Royal Thermal Springs & the Wall Painting



Picture by James Han

Two day tour:

First day: Drive to Chicheng Thermal Spring, bath and visit the ancient buildings nearby.

Second day: visit Qingyuan Building, Zhenshuo Building and Liao Tomb in Xuanhua on your way back to Beijing Accommodation in Chicheng ranges in price from 180 to 360 yuan.

For detailed information please contact James Han at 66063733.

Leisurely Getaway



Day Tour to Ancient Passes & Pagodas

By James Han

The pagodas at Yinshan (银山 Silver Mountain), to the east of the Ming Tombs stand as though they had sprung from out of the earth. A stone ledge provides an ideal spot to rest and contemplate the pagodas. There are no crowds here to jostle you and disturb your enjoyment of the scenery. Sitting on the stone ledge and losing yourself in thought seems to be the most pressing of needs.

It doesn't matter that the grand Fahua Temple that used to house the pagodas disappeared long ago. The pagodas themselves provide ample evidence to the former splendor of the site.

The five large pagodas are multi-eave stupas, and the smaller ones are built in Tibetan Buddhist, or lamaist style.

Stupas, shaped like a round pot, originated in India. Artisans of ancient China developed them into intricately detailed giants. Only the ornament on the top of Chinese stupas retain the original shape of the Indian stupas. The ornament was preserved as a symbol of Chinese stupas. No matter how splendidly the body of the stupa was decorated, the ornament remained unchanged.

Most of the small pagodas at Yinshan have collapsed or been destroyed, with only the bases remaining. One standing on a huge rock protruding far from the mountainside, owing to its dangerous location, has been well preserved. Sitting beside this pagoda, the five large pagodas are under your feet. From this vantage point, you can appreciate the neat arrangement of the pagodas, and admire the beautiful picture formed by the pagodas and



Yinshai Pogodas

surrounding mountains.

The highest peak at Yinshan is called Zhuomoding (琢磨顶 Pondering Summit); stone steps provide access to the top. Some two hundred meters below the mountaintop lies the Sermon Dais, Deng Yinfeng, named after a famous Tang Dynasty monk who once preached from it.

Besides pagodas, there are also many caves in which Taoist priests meditated, cultivating their vital energies and purifying their spirit.

The snow-capped mountains, rocks and pagodas at Yinshan will be even more beautiful after snow.

Tips:
Yinshan Pagoda lies to the east of the Ming Tombs and Badaling Great Wall. You can visit all three scenic spots in one day, however, an alternative tour might be more interesting.

This tour takes in another two

attractions that are off the beaten track; Huanghualing (黄花岭) Great Wall and Zhuangdaokou (撞道口) Pass.

Huanghualing (Yellow Wild Flower Mountain) Great Wall was a crucial pass in the Ming Great Wall. The mountains here are covered with yellow wild flowers in summer, hence the name. This section of Great Wall has not been restored. Together with the ancient villages nearby, they provide a good place for hiking adventuring and archaeological research.

Zhuangdaokou Pass was another important pass of the Ming Great Wall, and is one of the few intact Great Wall passes preserved in the Beijing area today. It is an ideal place for picnicking.

Details of the tour:

Visit Huanghualing Great Wall and Zhuangdaokou Pass in the morning, and Yinshan Pagodas in the afternoon.

Drive to Madian Bridge and get on to the Jingchang (京昌) Expressway. Take the exit for Changqing County, at Xiguan (西关) loop road, change to Expressway 110. After driving 61 kilometers, you will come to a T intersection; turn left toward Huanghua City (right to Yinshan Pagodas). Turn left at the next T intersection and after driving another three kilometers, you will come to Huanghua Town. Take the left fork at a Y intersection, you will see the Great Wall soon.

After visiting the Great Wall, return to the second T intersection and take the other road (to the right) to Zhuangdaokou Pass. Finally, return to the first T intersection and take the other road to the Yinshan Pagodas.